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# Local Government Service

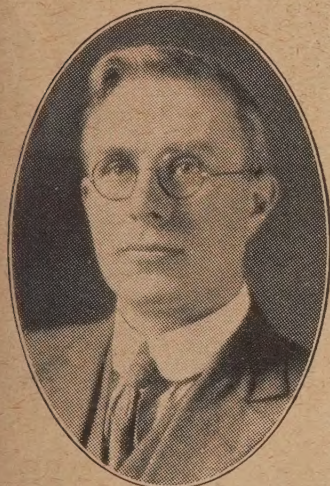
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## THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

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MR. H. W. J. HEATHERINGTON

**L**OCAL GOVERNMENT in England is the tap-root of English character and of English history. In one form or another, it goes back to the beginning of things. But municipal government, as we now understand the phrase, is a very recent creation. There are indeed municipal corporations of considerable antiquity. Is it not written that King John himself recognised the corporate unity of our own city? And there are Corporations, or ghosts of Corporations, up and down the country of even longer lineage. But these, for the most part, were strangely unlike the Corporations of our own time, just as the cities for which they were first responsible have hardly more than a nominal identity with the huge centres of populations with which we are now familiar.

### "A Hotch-Potch Affair"

So anchored are we in the experience of our own day, that we find it hard to realise that our kind of civilisation is a new thing on the face of the earth; that, for example, for all but the last short century of its history, England has been a country of hamlets, of villages and of little market towns—overwhelmingly rural, with the whole round and form of its life turned to rural interests and rural occupations. But about 200 years ago larger towns and cities began to spring up, each with its own part to play in the national economy, some of them seats of manufacture, others of them, like our own port of Liverpool, living by their capacity to give special services to commerce and transport.

The government of these towns was a hotch-potch affair. Some of them had Corporations. In Liverpool, as it happened, the Corporation was a good public-spirited body. As long ago as 1715, it had engineered the first dock in England. It built streets, churches, markets, warehouses and even maintained two schools. But that was somewhat exceptional. For the most part, Corporations performed only the function of providing a magistracy for their

boroughs, and otherwise took little part in public business. They were small, self-perpetuating bodies of privileged citizens. They were the legal owners of the corporate estate: and held themselves to be perfectly entitled to administer that estate in their own interest, and without regard to the larger body of citizens. It is not in the least surprising that all but a very few were useless, and very many of them were corrupt.

### A Complex System

The real business of the towns was necessarily transacted by other bodies—some of them, like the Parish meeting and the Vestry—the survivors of purely rural times; others, like the Improvement Commissioners, or in some places the Police Commissioners, the creation of special local Acts. This complex and confusing system was always difficult to work, though, again exceptionally, the various bodies in Liverpool seem to have maintained good relations with one another, and to have done well by the growing city. But elsewhere, in the twenty difficult years following the Napoleonic wars, the public mind became more and more keenly aware of the deficiencies of the system, and the demand for reform could not be stayed.

These deficiencies were indeed flagrant. For the early years of the nineteenth century saw the full onset of the great transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy: and the new wine could by no means be poured into the old bottles. The growth and concentration of populations created a whole set of new problems with which the municipalities had neither the authority nor the finance to cope: and the surge of democratic feeling which expressed itself in the Parliamentary Reform Act of 1832 demanded also a broader basis for the governments of the boroughs. The agitation came to a head over the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. The sequel was the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835: and it is not without interest to-day to observe that the last great change in the powers of functions of Corporations was effected by another Poor Law Act of precisely one hundred years later—the Unemployment Act of 1934.

### The 1835 Act

Apart from their unrepresentative character, the main defect of the unreformed Corporations was the limitation both of their administrative and their financial powers. They had estates but no general power to raise a rate, and therefore no income out of which they could provide new services. The result was that most of the services which were called into existence by the new conditions of the towns were discharged in whole or in part by bodies created in each instance to raise the necessary funds. The relief of the poor had its special authority; the paving of streets another; the provision of water another; watching and lighting another, and so on. In most cases the

Corporation had some representative on these outside authorities: but confusion and overlapping were inevitable, and much inefficiency and mutual hostility the result. The Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 was the first timid attempt to bring some sort of order out of chaos.

Timid it was. But at least it was a beginning. Wisdom after the event is always easy. And looking back now, we can see that much subsequent mischief might have been averted—much delay, expense, and ill-considered development avoided, if one hundred years ago Parliament had thought out some rational principles on which municipal government might proceed, and had established authorities clothed with the powers necessary for their realisation. But that is not the way of governments—at least not in England. We do not ask to see the distant scene: one step enough for us. So certainly with our ancestors of 1835. The Act was the occasion of a bitter Parliamentary fight—in both Houses, in which the better part was not always that of the reformers. It emerged a compromise.

### Direct Popular Responsibility

Municipal Councils were brought into being, on a basis of direct and indirect election, which, in the form of councillors and aldermen, survives, though not without change, until this day. The franchise was conferred upon householders occupying property in respect of which they paid poor-rates: but without any such new-fangled devices as a secret ballot. The century was to see a notable enlargement of the basis of local government. But this at least set the principle of direct popular responsibility; and gave local administration a support from which it has not since departed. As regards the powers and duties of the new Councils, not much was at first achieved. One great change was the requirement that Councils should manage their estates for the benefit of the inhabitants rather than for their private interest and enrichment. To that end they were required to pay their revenues into a Borough Fund, from which to remunerate their officers; and if the Fund were not sufficient for this purpose, they were empowered to levy a Borough rate by precept on the overseers of the Poor Law. They were given power to make Bye-laws for the good government of their boroughs, but this general power amounted to little, and was further reduced by judicial interpretations. They were given also power to appoint a Police Force; but these powers were restricted by their inability to raise a sufficient rate: and it was some time before any effective use could be made of this provision. So also as regards Public Lighting and Watching. And in one important respect, the privileges of the Corporations were curtailed. They were no longer allowed to appoint the magistrates of the Borough. By the new Act, that function was

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\* An Address delivered at the Picton Hall, Liverpool, at the request of the Liverpool City Council.



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reserved to the Central Government—a change bitterly resented at the time, but probably wise.

The Act of 1835, therefore, established Municipal Councils of a new and more promising type. But their assured powers were small: and gave no foretaste of the amazing development which was, in fact, in store. Indeed, the development began almost on a side-wind. The Act itself empowered one of these pre-existing ad hoc bodies—the Improvement Commissioners—at their own choice to hand over their functions to the new Corporations. To begin with, little use was made of this provision. But it implanted the idea of a transfer of functions from the ad hoc to the new statutory body: and gradually that idea took root. Occasionally by direct transfer, but much more frequently by the insertion of a clause either in a local Act promoted by a Corporation, or in the Charter establishing a new Corporation, transfers and amalgamations of this kind were effected: and in the course of twenty or thirty years, Municipal Corporations began to find themselves furnished with powers to undertake new duties, first in relation to Public Health, and later in relation to Municipal Trading.

## What the 1835 Act Accomplished

This, then, was the beginning. Slender as it was, compared to our modern motions, the Act of 1835 accomplished two or three essential things. It established elected Municipal Councils instead of the old closed Corporations. It made possible the future establishment of similar Councils in certain industrial areas such as Manchester and Birmingham where no corporation had previously existed. It authorised the transaction of the business of the Councils through the now familiar instrument of Committees. It regularised the use of corporate revenues and the appointment of officers: and if it gave the new councils only a narrow range of reference, at least it gave them also a loophole through which they could extend their activities. The story of the next 100 years is really the story of that extension.

In the early years, progress was comparatively slow; and it was even more capricious. Municipal Government, as we have seen, was the creation of Parliament: and roughly speaking, every extension of the range of Municipal Government required an Act of Parliament. The Act of 1835 was often amended. But up to the Municipal Corporation Act of 1882, there was no considered revision of the general powers and duties of Corporations, applicable to all Corporations alike. Every development, therefore, had to be undertaken and fought for by one particular Corporation, in connection with its own affairs: and every Corporation had to obtain Parliamentary sanction for every important step which it desired to take. The opportunities for hostile and delaying actions were, therefore, endless. The surprise is not that progress was no faster, but that in the circumstances so much was achieved.

## Main Lines of Development

From quite early days, one or two Corporations showed a real enthusiasm for their task. Under the leadership of a few vigorous citizens they fought the battles, Parliamentary and other, on which the development of the whole system depended; and among the Corporations so distinguished, Liverpool certainly has an honourable place.

Up to 1882, there were three main lines of development—public health, police, and municipal trading. In the first, Liverpool certainly holds pride of place; in the second, Manchester, even before its incorporation, took the leading part; and in the third, Birmingham, especially in the 'seventies, under the impulse of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, was perhaps the boldest of the pioneers.

Let me say a word on each side of these three matters. Public health is a many-sided interest.

It begins with a concern for such matters as sewerage and paving; but it extends to water supply, to housing, and slum clearance, to the care of sufferers from diseases, to the provision of all sorts of medical and hospital services, and to the feeding and clothing of school children. The story is by no means yet complete. A new chapter is being written under our eyes at this very moment. But in 1835, none of these things was undividedly within the control of the Corporation. Even in Liverpool, the most elementary things, like sewage and pavings, were the concern of different authorities. One set of Commissioners dealt with Everton and Kirkdale, though only with the streets and not with the courts or alleys or house drainage. Another set dealt similarly with Toxteth; and the Town Council had its own Committee to fill up the gaps of these different jurisdictions.

Liverpool, therefore, both before and after 1835, had had to promote several private Acts of Parliament: and in 1846 it obtained a really historic consolidation Act, codifying no less than sixty previous Acts, and providing what was then thought to be a really comprehensive scheme for dealing with health and sanitation. The Act authorised the appointment of the first Medical Officer of Health in England—Dr. W. H. Duncan, inaugurating a line of distinguished medical administrators—the appointment of sanitary inspectors, the making of regulations regarding new streets, cellar dwellings, sewers, ventilation, lodging houses, slaughter houses, smoke and the supply of water for public purposes. This Act was a landmark in the history of public health: for undoubtedly this and the corresponding Act obtained for Manchester about the same time were the foundations of the first general Public Health Act passed in 1848. Liverpool also obtained another important Act in 1864, this being the first Act connected with Slum Clearance, and again the precursor of much general legislation. Thereafter in the main, progress in Public Health was easier. Parliament itself drew up a number of Acts culminating in the Public Health Act of 1875, by the voluntary adoption of which Municipalities were enabled to undertake policies and measures in this particular field. But this easier method would not have been won without the pioneer efforts of Liverpool and other cities.

## Police Administration

In the matter of Police, progress was even slower. Curiously enough, in spite of the strong lead given by Manchester, the Municipalities as a whole made comparatively little use of the limited powers which they possessed, and showed little interest in the matter. It was not until with the passing of the Police Act of 1856, the Central Government began to put pressure on the local authorities, and to bear part of the cost of the police services, that any marked improvement set in. In the ten years thereafter, most of the Police forces had been brought up to a reasonable standard of efficiency. Local administration, through the specialised Watch Committee, has since then maintained and improved the standard. But—in contrast with the development of Public Health—the credit for the original work goes not to the Municipalities but to the Home Office.

In municipal trading, on the other hand, we find in the main a repetition of the development of Public Health, though with this peculiar variation. Broadly the story is one first of decline, then of revival. In pre-Reform days, Corporations were considerable controllers of public enterprises. Gradually they had let slip many which had once belonged to them, and then equally slowly, in the face of formidable opposition, they reasserted themselves and gathered into their own hands undertakings old and new. Both stages of the process occurred with no set plan, and on no clear principles. But the outcome was remarkable—and in the end logical enough.

Municipal trading really begins from the two primary activities which I have already discussed—public health and protection of the peace. The very first concern of a public health authority must be with the water supply—to provide clean water for the use of the citizens, and to remove dirty water after it has been used. The protection of the peace was largely an affair of lighting the streets after dark, which, with the invention of gas, involved the power to take up and lay down streets and pavements. From these two things everything else developed.

## Water Supply

In the Middle Ages, many Corporations had power to control the town's water supply. But by the beginning of the nineteenth century nearly all of this had gone. Most of the supply, such as it was, was in the hands of Statutory Companies, which almost everywhere held an absolute monopoly. Even in the few places (like Liverpool) where more than one company was engaged in the business, and where, therefore, there was some prospect of competition, agreements were made between the companies enabling them to charge excessive prices and to make enormous profits.

The first motive, therefore, which induced the reformed Corporations to enter the field of water supply was the desire to protect the consumer and to improve sanitary conditions. Burnley obtained the first Act in 1846, Liverpool and Manchester following a year later. The process of "taking-over" continued, at first slowly, later with increased momentum, until by the end of the century most water undertakings in the country had become Corporation property. But it was, especially to begin with, a bitter business. There were fierce struggles between the Companies and the Corporations; the Parliamentary influence of the Corporations was weak, and the influence of the Companies was strong: and though the Corporations won in the end, they had to pay a heavy price.

In one case—the contest between Sheffield and the Sheffield Water Company—the fight was so severe, and the outcome so uncertain, that it led to a new development in municipal government. Corporations all over England were impelled to band themselves together in the Association of Municipal Corporations expressly to watch over the Parliamentary interests of the municipalities. From that time forward the influence of the Corporations increased. In spite of set-backs, the main issue was at last favourably determined: and Corporations were free not only to manage their undertakings but greatly to enlarge them. The dramatic example of Glasgow in drawing upon the water of Loch Katrine was followed by Manchester at Thirlmere, by Liverpool at Vyrnwy (in 1880), and by Birmingham at Elan; and it is no more than historic fact to say that the great development of the science and art of water engineering has been almost wholly due to the enterprise of the Corporations.

## Municipalisation of Gas

The story of Gas is not dissimilar, though municipalisation has not there been carried quite so far. Again, the first motive was to protect the consumer: there was also the added interest of the control of street excavations. The most powerful influence in this direction undoubtedly was that of Joseph Chamberlain. By his decision in 1874-75, Birmingham bought out the Birmingham Gas Companies; and Chamberlain's defence of his policy has long been quoted as a classic statement of the rationale of local government and of municipal enterprise. "He held distinctly," we are told, "that all monopolies which are sustained in any way by the State ought to be in the hands of the representatives of the people, by whom they should be administered and to whom their profits should go. . . . He was inclined to increase the duties and responsibilities of the local authority in whom he had so great a confidence, and would do everything in his power to constitute these local authorities a real local parliament supreme in their local jurisdiction. The purchase of the waterworks



concerned the health of the town, whilst that the gasworks concerned its financial sources."

## Electricity and Transport

After Gas came Electricity and with it transport. Pre-electric Transport was not in general controlled by the Corporations. But their successful battles over water and gas had so strengthened their position in Parliament, that when Tramway legislation was passed, the interest of the Corporations was carefully consulted. Thus, for example, under the Tramways Act 1870, no Company received a permanent franchise to build a tramway. It was given only a limited franchise, at the expiry of which the corporation had power to buy the undertaking out at the valuation of its physical assets. No allowance was to be made for goodwill (or the like) which had so inflated the compensation given to the Gas and Water companies.

The Corporations were, therefore, in a strong position which, in many places, they did not fail to exploit—evidently inspired by a very human desire to visit upon the Tramway Companies some of the grievances which they felt against the Gas and Water Companies. The system did not work very satisfactorily. But for the most part undertakings remained in private hands until with the coming of electric traction, Corporations almost everywhere thought it best to take advantage of the economic factor which held in their favour and themselves became the principal transport operators.

Electricity comes on the scene in the 80's: and the story follows the now familiar course. Once more, in contrast with the early struggles over Gas and Water, Parliament by the Electric Lighting Act of 1882 placed the Corporations in an advantageous position. The first developments were carried out by enfranchised Companies. But as soon as it became evident that large profits were to be made in the business, municipalities began to use their powers to buy the companies out. In Liverpool, for example, a company established in 1889 was bought out by the Corporation, on a quite reasonable valuation, in 1896; and here as elsewhere for twenty years or more the main electrical supply development was in the hands of the Corporation.

But in this service, there is a curious interesting sequel. A new factor appeared, in that, after a time, technical progress began to put difficulties in the way of a purely local system of generation and distribution. It became apparent that production was most efficient when carried on by very large units of manufacture, which would serve much more than a local area. At this present moment, these are in process of formation: and it is not quite certain what the final solution will be. So far the bigger Corporations maintain their position, though often as members of a larger system: but many smaller Corporations have parted with their undertakings, and rely on outside producers.

## The Limits of Enterprise?

There is here perhaps a moral of wider application. I shall refer to it later. It may be that in various directions we are approaching the limits of the enterprises which Corporations can manage, at least in their present form. At all events it is certain that the outlook is a little different from 30 years ago. About the turn of the century, many, perhaps most interested people, foresaw a further large and rapid extension of the sphere of municipal trading. Of course it may still happen. Nevertheless it is a fact that in the last 30 years, no striking new departure has been opened up, on any large scale. The services which in general belong to the municipalities are those upon which they entered in the first half century of their existence. They are all of a kind which lend themselves more or less easily to monopolistic control, and, therefore, conform to the canon laid down by Mr. Chamberlain in 1875.

Some of the other services with which municipalities have experimented have shown themselves less amenable to such treatment, so that they have had to be conducted, seldom success-

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fully, on a competitive basis. Others, such as the telephone, have shown themselves, for technical reasons, unsuitable for operation by so small a unit as a single local area. And there is at least some ground for doubting whether the near future is likely to see any expansion of the range of municipal trading enterprises at all comparable to that witnessed in the later middle years of the 19th century.

However that may be, the work of the Corporations is very far from ended. They have still plenty to do in improving the services which they already control: and even more in developing the other, in the main, non-trading services for which they are responsible. Of these, the type is public health—the beginnings of which I have described. That service, as we saw, dealt first with the environment of the citizen—with water, sewage and sanitation. Its purpose was the prevention of disease. Its later stages have become increasingly personal. Formerly, for example, it dealt only with infectious diseases, less for the sake of the patients themselves than because they were a menace to other people. It has now begun to take an interest in them for their own sakes. It has created agencies for the treatment and cure of disease of every kind. In every great city, the Corporation now provides many more hospital beds for the accommodation of general medical and surgical patients than do the Voluntary Hospitals: and certain types of hospital service are now exclusively the business of the Corporation. And its incidental medical work, in maternity and infant welfare clinics, in schools, and in other ways, now covers a very large fraction of the medical work of the community as a whole.

## Housing and Slum Clearance

But perhaps even more remarkable than this direct medical development has been the great Public Health enterprise of housing and slum clearance. That is a matter of almost contemporary history. True, as I have mentioned, the Liverpool Act of 1864 made a beginning of this service: but neither here nor anywhere else was very much done before the War. Housing remained for the most part an affair of private enterprise. After the War, however, a great change occurred. The Housing and Town Planning Act of 1919, and a whole series of subsequent Acts and Orders, with the backing of subsidies from the central government, led to an immense increase in the housing undertakings of municipalities great and small. At the present time, no department of their work engages more attention than this: and no municipality has more to show than our own. It is a safe prophecy that for the next generation, housing will continue to be one of the most absorbing preoccupations of our Councils.

Many other things remain, on which I must say nothing. Think, for example, of what has been done, and what still remains to do, in the provision of parks and open spaces, in the organisation of the means of healthy recreation, in the furtherance of Libraries and of the Arts, and in much else beside. Even of the two great services of Education and Public Assistance, I can say but little. For both of these, though they have been for long local services of the greatest importance, have only recently become the concern of the Corporations. The old unreformed Corporation of Liverpool did indeed maintain two schools: and the first reformed Corporation showed signs of real interest in educational development. But that phase passed: and for fifty years or more municipal councils played very little direct part in education.

In 1889, however, a Technical Education Act gave them some share in higher or secondary education, though overwhelmingly the greater part of the service remained in the hands of ad hoc authorities, and of voluntary bodies. It was not until Mr. Balfour's Act of 1902 that the

oversight of the public educational system as a whole was transferred to the County and County Borough Councils. The Councils, of course, work through Education Committees. But the final responsibility is theirs; and under their charge, in the last thirty years, remarkable developments of the service have been accomplished. They are indeed the thirty most notable years in the educational history of England.

## Care of the Poor

The care of the poor is an even more recent responsibility of the Municipal Authority. For centuries that service belonged to the Church. But a famous Statute of Elizabeth established in every parish a body specially responsible for this duty. In 1834 the whole system was reorganised, and in one form or another the Guardians of the Poor maintained their independence until less than six years ago. In the three centuries of their existence, they had built up a vast service—institutions, hospitals, homes, boarding-out arrangements, offices and officers of every kind—for the discharge of a task endless, multifarious, and delicate. By the Local Government Act of 1929, this heavy responsibility, and all this complex apparatus, were transferred to the County and County Borough Authorities: and by them distributed among their various Committees. This Act of 1929 was the last, as it was perhaps the greatest, stage in the consolidation of local government.

With the absorption of Education and Public Assistance, the Municipal Council is now singly in control of the whole range of public services, and of almost the whole range of public utilities. That has taken a century to accomplish: it has now been achieved. Our Corporations are now entrusted with a range of powers and duties far exceeding anything that could have been foreseen one hundred years ago. It is well that we should understand and sympathise with the magnitude of the task which we have committed to them.

I should like to speculate on the future, and in particular to ask your attention to one or two conditions on which, as I think, the success of municipal government will depend. But history, not prophecy, is my business to-night. I ask your leave only to refer very briefly to the more general aspects of the story which I have told: and to indicate the problems which still remain.

## Prestige and Power

As we have seen, there have been two stages—forty years or so when the new Corporations were fighting to establish themselves in face of the hostility of local private and statutory bodies, and the suspicions of Parliament: then a longer period of growing power and influence, until they are now indisputably dominant in the control of all the major agencies of municipal life. This remarkable increase in the prestige and power of the Corporations has largely been the outcome of local initiative. But not always: and it is to be noted that it does not, even now, imply a greater degree of local independence. On the contrary, all through this process, the Central Government has determined what Local Authorities may or may not do: and through the power of the purse has exercised an intimate influence on their policies. And the power of the centre has steadily grown.

Seventy years ago, the National Treasury contributed only 6 per cent. of the expenditure of Local Authorities—the local rates bearing the remaining 94 per cent. Twenty-five years ago, the proportions were 25 per cent. to the Treasury and 75 per cent. to the rates; fifteen years ago, 31 per cent. and 69 per cent.; two years ago 46 per cent. and 54 per cent.—not far short of half and half. The inference is plain enough—that as the local authorities

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come to lean more upon Treasury support, their initiative and responsibility may tend to be lessened. I do not think it can be held that the relations and functions of central and local government have yet been satisfactorily settled; and there is here an issue which may come to affect profoundly the character and quality of municipal work.

There is a second matter. The very success with which the municipalities have developed their undertakings has brought difficulties in its train. As we have seen, in some respects they have reached a stage at which, for technical reasons, the local area is no longer a suitable unit of administration. But other and wider considerations bear in the same direction. No one can suppose, for example, that even ever a single and comparatively homogeneous area such as our own four Merseyside boroughs the responsibility for such services as transport or public assistance is distributed in a way which corresponds to the real necessities of the case. Hitherto, adjustments of area have proved to be difficult and expensive: and arrangements for voluntary co-operation are not always easy to sustain. The matter admittedly is complex, and I must not discuss it. But I cannot think that either the delimitation of our present areas or our procedure for necessary changes in them or our agencies of concerted action, represent the highest wisdom of which the public mind is capable. And I believe also that our success or failure in dealing with this problem will have an important effect on the integrity and vigour of municipal administration in the future. I am heartily glad that our four boroughs are applying themselves to the examination of this issue.

## Two Questions

Sooner or later also—and sooner rather than later—those who desire to maintain the fabric of our municipal institutions will have to ask and answer two questions. The first is this: Why is it that with all their remarkable growth, with all their power to touch the life of the citizen in a hundred ways, our Councils have not correspondingly succeeded in enlisting the interest of the man in the street? We should all agree, I think, that democratic election does not work very happily when only some 30 or 40 per cent. of the electors will ordinarily take the trouble to go to the poll: and that a body elected under those conditions lacks something of the moral authority which it ought to have. But I daresay we should disagree as to the remedies. Partly, I am sure, it is a matter of mere mechanics.

Councils are, perhaps, too large: and elections certainly are much too frequent. In bodies which are primarily administrative, clear and exciting issues of policy cannot and ought not to arise with regularity as the month of November. If we merely doubled the interval between elections, I believe we should increase municipal efficiency and we should greatly increase popular interest, and therefore popular control. But here also my purpose is not to solve but to state a problem, and to emphasise my belief that a solution of some kind is essential to the health of municipal government.

The second question is of a different order. Our Councils could not attempt to deal with the immense interests which they now control without the assistance of voluntary bodies and particularly without the services of large expert full-time technical staffs. We know very well how much municipal administration owes to municipal officers. The final responsibility both for policy and for detailed executive action lies not with them but with the Council and its Committees. But that makes no difference to the effectiveness of their part. No praise could be too high for what they have accomplished in the face of many difficulties; and we here in Liverpool would be lacking in ordinary gratitude if we failed to make this acknowledgment.

Yet, well though we know this, we have not yet

fully considered what it involves. We have not yet adequately defined the nature of the service which we expect from our officials: we have not yet secured to them the full opportunity for the expression of their professional judgment: we have not yet so regularised the methods of appointment to this great new local civil service as to guarantee that it will enlist the same high proportion of the available intelligence of the nation as is now attracted to the national service. Again, I am well aware of the difficulties of the question, and again I must leave it merely as a question. But it is one of far-reaching, perhaps even decisive, importance.

At long last I have done. I have offered the barest sketch of the remarkable and romantic growth of the services and influence of the Municipal Corporations in the hundred years since they acquired the bases of their powers. I have raised some questions, for it is well that we should realise that if much has been finely done, something still remains to do. But as we look back over the story, no one, surely, will doubt the beneficence of the great work that has been accomplished, or that has been one of the principal factors in turning to socially fruitful uses the great increase of material wealth achieved during the last century.

We have reason to be proud of what has been wrought, and very proud of the part of our own city. Gratefully we remember the citizens of the past, especially those who bore rule in this place; and hopefully we regard the future. We wish well to you, my Lord Mayor, and to those of all parties who have been called to leadership and to the unremitting toil of Council and Committee, desiring that they and we alike may be inspired by the vision of our city as the home of a humane and generous civilisation, as a dwelling place worthy of the spirit of man.

## EDUCATION IN CITIZENSHIP

The annual meeting of the Association for Education in Citizenship will be held on Tuesday, June 18, at Morley College, Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.1. The Association has just formed a secondary schools committee which has in preparation a volume on "Training for Citizenship in Secondary Schools." The book (which is being published by the Oxford University Press at 3s. 6d.) will refer mainly to the teaching of young people between the ages of 14 and 18. An elementary schools committee has been formed, and is collecting and will subsequently publish examples of schemes of work for training in citizenship which are at present being tried out in senior, central and junior schools, for children under 14.

Another committee to be formed is for training colleges, and a questionnaire is being drawn up in order to ascertain the means which are being adopted by training colleges both to interest their own students in civic matters, and to help them to pass on an interest in and knowledge of these matters to their future pupils. A pamphlet setting out the main views of the Association has been published. It is based upon the earlier pamphlet, "Education for Citizenship," but has been almost entirely re-written and considerably enlarged in the light of suggestions made and experience gained during the past year. Copies may be obtained from the honorary secretary, Mrs. E. M. Hubback, at Morley College at 1s. 1d. each post free, or 10s. 6d. per dozen, post free.

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## PUBLICITY FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE

By J. S. COVENTRY (Glasgow)

The attention paid to this subject recently has probably caused some to wonder why publicity should be thought necessary, while a more intelligent will consider it long overdue. Life is too short to deal with the point of view of the former, but a statement of the facts which give rise to this necessity is nevertheless useful.

It is a fact that the average citizen is unaware that he is the subject of a continuous mass operation at the hands of numerous sub-propagandists whose most effective weapon is the popular Press. An intelligent minority is aware of this and are active enough to look elsewhere for instruction of a more rational sort. The great majority, however, hold strong views on politics, Miss Mae West, or the armaments activities of mysterious foreign powers without any intellectual basis therefor. Students of psychology will understand this clearly, and the uninstructed in this science should peruse the late Professor Wallas's "Human Nature and Politics."

I am trying to show that any interest which wishes public support—or, at least, appreciation—has got to do something more than desecrate it; it must also "educate" the public to a sense of appreciation. What makes this "education" doubly necessary is the fact that there exists a large and active section of the public who have been "educated" by other interests into a state of hostility to the public service. "Education" is meant "propaganda," and the general aim should be, firstly, to reach that section of the public which has no ideas, and, secondly, to reach that section of the public which has hostile ideas.

Apart from this, there is a general problem of a psychological nature, namely, an instinctive suspicion or dislike of official persons and their works, and this problem is due partly to the fact that public servants do not always remember that they are such, and partly to the fact that the public are uneducated in citizenship and fail to realise that coercive or restrictive actions by an official are not for his own private satisfaction, but for the communal good.

The arrival of the demand note, the sanitation inspector or the meter-reader is not hailed with joy unless, of course, in the case of meter-readers who are collectors of pennies from the automatic type and who frequently have to disburse rebates.

Almost every citizen, at some time or other, has had his liberty interfered with, or his property or income subtracted from, for the good of the community of which he is a member. Now, if the beneficiaries of our labours are to rise up in their wrath and suspend us from the numerous lamp-posts which the public service has supplied, we must make them aware of their good fortune. We must use propaganda and publicity, and it must be the best available for there are doughty opponents, highly skilled in the use of these weapons, already on the field.

Action is necessary, and the steps which must be taken must be vigorous and strategic if the forces which make for social progress are not to be overcome.

Mr. George William White who is retiring after 50 years' service in the Engineer's Department, of the Port of Bristol Authority, was farewelled by his fellow officers on March 1st. Mr. F. G. Hill (Chief Clerk), paid tribute to Mr. White's business acumen, and Mr. W. Wordsworth (Chief Engineer) presented Mr. White with a barometer, binoculars and a mirror.

Mr. White has been a local preacher for years and a short time ago was awarded the local preachers' long service medal. In capacity he reached the highest office he could attain, that of Circuit Steward in the Bedminster Wesleyan Circuit, Bristol. He has been a member of the local branch of N.A.L.G.O. since inception; prior to that he was an active member of the Bristol Municipal Officers Association.



# ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH ESSAY COMPETITIONS

## SIR ARTHUR ROBINSON PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION (ENGLAND AND WALES)

SIR A. ROBINSON, G.C.B., C.B.E., Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, has again intimated his desire to associate himself with the Summer School, and has offered prizes of the value of five guineas to be competed for in an Essay Competition. The competition is open to members of N.A.L.G.O. in England and Wales, and will be divided into two classes:—

Class I. For officers whose salary is £250 per annum or more; value of prize three guineas.  
Class II. For officers whose salary is less than £250 per annum; value of prize two guineas.

### Subjects

The subjects from which the candidates may choose are the same for both classes, viz:—

1. Do you consider it possible to lay down in the sphere of the social services lines of demarcation between what is appropriate to (a) local authorities and (b) voluntary bodies? If so, what lines do you suggest?  
2. Suggest any two local government services in which the existing law requires substantial amendment. Explain the present difficulties and sketch the amendment proposed.

3. It is said that industry is gravitating to London. Is this true, and if so can you explain it? Do you think that the Government should check or control any such movement, and if so how do you suggest that it should be done?

The winning essay, or a precis thereof, will be published in LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

### Rules of the Competition

- The competition is open to all members of the N.A.L.G.O., in England and Wales.
- The essay may be in manuscript, type-written or printed.
- No stipulation is made as to length.
- The final selection by Sir Arthur Robinson must be taken as conclusive.
- Essays must reach the General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on or before June 14, 1935.
- Each essay must be headed with the title chosen, a nom-de-plume and a note of whether the competitor desires his essay to be judged in Class I or Class II. A sealed envelope containing the author's name, address and branch, and bearing on the outside his nom-de-plume and class, must accompany the essay. Indication of the author's identity should not appear on the essay.
- The result of the competition will be announced prior to July 20, 1935.

### THE J. E. HIGHTON PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION (SCOTLAND)

Mr. J. E. Highton, C.B.E., B.L., Secretary of the Scottish Members of N.A.L.G.O., has very kindly instituted an Essay Competition in connection with the School. This competition is open to Scottish Members of N.A.L.G.O., whether they attend the School or not.

### Rules of the Competition

- The full rules for the Competition are as follows:—
- The Competition will be divided into two classes, viz:—
  - Class I. For officers whose salary is £250 per annum or more.
  - Class 2. For officers whose salary is less than £250 per annum.
- A prize to the value of three guineas will be awarded to the competitor who submits the best essay in Class I; a prize to the value of

two guineas to the competitor who submits the best essay in Class 2.

- The Competition is open to all members of N.A.L.G.O. in Scotland.
- No stipulation is made as to the length of the essay.
- The final selection by Mr. J. E. Highton, Secretary to the Department of Health for Scotland, must be taken as conclusive.
- Essays must reach the Divisional Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 135 Wellington Street, Glasgow, on or before June 1, 1935.
- Each essay must be headed with the title chosen, a nom-de-plume and a note stating whether the essay is submitted in Class I or 2.
- A sealed envelope containing the author's name, address and branch, and bearing on the outside his nom-de-plume and the class in which the essay is submitted, must accompany the essay. Indication of the author's identity should not appear on the essay.
- The result of the competition will be announced prior to June 22, 1935.

### Subjects

The subjects from which the candidates may choose are:—

- Discuss the place of the central and of the local authority in national administration; what are the characteristics of the existing relations between the two? How far do they depend for successful operation upon formal and how far upon informal action? And in what respects, if any, would you suggest methods to improve them?
- Discuss the organisation of society according to function and the necessary rearrangement of Government machinery and control that would result.
- Discuss, with special reference to present tendencies, the bearing of modern development of transport and communications, and of the rate of growth of population, on units and areas of local government in Scotland.

### OLDHAM BRANCH'S TRIP

The Oldham Branch of N.A.L.G.O. have arranged a special trip to New Brighton, via the Manchester Ship Canal, on Sunday, June 16. The itinerary is as follows:—

- 9.30 a.m. Leave G.P.O. Oldham by Special Buses for Manchester Docks.
- 10.0 a.m. S.S. "Francis Storey" leaves Pomona Docks.
12. noon Luncheon (Catering by Messrs. J. Lyons & Co. Ltd.)
- 2.20 p.m. Arrive at Eastham Locks.
- 3.0 p.m. Arrive at New Brighton.
- 3.0 to 8.0 p.m. Free at New Brighton (Tea at own expense).
- 8.0 p.m. Leave New Brighton for Liverpool by Special Ferry.
- 9.0 p.m. Special through train leaves Liverpool (Exchange) for Manchester and Oldham.
- 9.50 p.m. Arrive Manchester (Victoria).
- 9.52 p.m. Train leaves for Oldham, calling at Hollinwood, Werneth, Central and Mumps.

Tickets: From Oldham (covering the entire programme), 12s., and from other towns (making own arrangements for Transport to Manchester Docks), 11s.; children under 12 years half-price.

Tickets may be obtained from Mr. H. N. Smawfield, Hon. Secretary, 153 London Road, Oldham; Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., 110, Yorkshire Street, Oldham (Phone Main 4137); N.A.L.G.O. Offices, 22 Booth Street, Manchester (phone Central 5257).

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ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
THE SUMMER SCHOOLS

THE Rt. Hon. Sir E. Hilton Young, G.B.E., D.S.O., D.S.C., M.P., the Minister of Health, will open the Sixth Summer School for England and Wales to be held at Balliol College, Oxford, from July 20 to July 27.

The lectures this year will be of an historical character and will give a general picture of local administration in early communities, of how local government as we conceive it emerged and the progress of its evolution, leading up to an analysis of the present day influence of local government and its possible future development.

The lectures will be divided into three groups:

Group I. *An Historical Survey of Local Government*

The lectures in this group will be delivered by Dr. W. Ivor Jennings, M.A., LL.B. (Cantab), Reader in English Law in the University of London, and will comprise:

No. 1. The Background of Modern Local Government.

No. 2. The Justices and the *Ad Hoc* Authorities.

No. 3. Modern Local Government.

Group II. *The Economic Influence of Local Government*

The lectures in this group will be delivered by Professor J. H. Jones, M.A., Professor of Economics and Head of the Commerce Department, University of Leeds, and will comprise:

No. 4. The Incidence and Effect of Rates.

No. 5. Local Government and the Distribution of Wealth.

No. 6. The Stabilising Influence of Local Government and the Trade Cycle.

Group III. *The Social Influence of Local Government*

The lectures in this group will be delivered by Mr. A. K. White, M.A., Caird Lecturer in Political Philosophy in the University of Glasgow, and will comprise:

No. 7. Local Initiative and Powers.

No. 8. Economic Planning and the Development of Social Services.

No. 9. Local Government and the State.

## Fees

## (a) Registration Fees:—

Where students are members of N.A.L.G.O. no registration fee is charged. For non-members the fee is 10s. 6d.

## (b) College Dues:—

The charge per head is 10s. 6d. per diem for those sleeping in College, and includes breakfast, lunch, tea, dinner, all service, the use of Lecture Rooms and Sitting Rooms; but no reduction can be made for absence from meals, for late arrival, or for early departure. Gratuities and wines are extra.

As the accommodation in College is limited, intending students are asked to enrol before June 28, 1935. Enrolment forms will be dealt with in the order of their receipt.

## Accommodation at Balliol College

Men Students will be accommodated in the College. Each Student will have a bed-sitting room.

Women Students will be accommodated in approved lodgings outside the College.

Married Men and their Wives will be given approved lodgings outside the College.

Students and their guests will take their meals in the College Hall and will be entitled to use the common rooms provided. The charge for meals in the case of those not sleeping in College is: breakfast 2s.; lunch 2s.; tea 9d.; dinner 3s.

The pamphlet giving syllabus of lectures and general information is available on application to Headquarters.

## Scottish Summer School

The Scottish Summer School will be at St. Salvador's Hall, St. Andrew's University from June 22 to June 29. The School will be opened by the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Alexander B. Swan. Lectures will be given on the social background of Victorian Scotland and the development of Local Government in Victorian Scotland, by Mr. W. M. Marshall, M.A., of Edinburgh University. Lectures will also be given by Dr. Hamilton, of Aberdeen University. A debate has been arranged between Dr. Bowie, of Dundee, and Mr. A. White, of Glasgow University, on "Should the State Come First and Liberty Second?"

Full particulars of the Scottish Summer School are given in the Prospectus available on application to the Divisional Secretary, 135 Wellington Street, Glasgow.

## GRAMOPHONE NOTES

The special "Jubilee" issue of H.M.V. records includes many famous names, favourites and new celebrities being mingled in a wide and cosmopolitan choice. In "Calvacade of Famous Artists," are such famous names as Paderewski, McCormack, Meade, Caruso, Kreisler, Cortot and Elgar. The work can indeed feel proud of having produced such a famous array of musicians during the 25 years (DB2454-DB2455). "Jubilee March" (C2739 and C2740) and "Jubilee Dance Memories" (C2738) show how the music has changed in music hall and ballroom. Sir Harry Lauder and Gracie Fields feature in the first selection. *The Coldstream Guards* Band play "Accession Memories" and "The Nation's Loyalty" is a record which attempts to show how loyalty to the throne forms part of all branches of the National life: (C2734) "Homage March," a fine new composition by Haydn Wood, ends with the National Anthem (C2734). Finally, there is a most impressive record of Elgar's "Coronation March," German's "Coronation March" and Hymn wonderfully played by the London Philharmonic Orchestra (DB2437 and DB2438).

Other new records include Maurice Chevalier singing songs from his new film "The man for the Folies Bergere"; Gracie Fields—100 cent. as usual; Rickards and Dunk, B.B.C.'s fortunate find; Ken Harvey, popular American Banjoist; The Light Symphony Orchestra; The Berlin Philharmonic Choir; Yehudi and Hephzibah Menuhin; Rabinstein playing "Toccata in C Major" (DB2421-2); Cortot's performances of Chopin's Op. 25; Chausson's Symphony in Flat Op. 20 (DB4953-56); and many other hits played by famous orchestras.

WEST MIDLANDS BOWLS  
COMPETITION

The West Midlands District Individual Merit bowls competition will be held at "Halfway House," Tattenhall Road, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, June 22. The winner of the competition will hold the District Committee's Challenge Cup for 12 months. Souvenir trophies will be given to both finalists and losing semi-finalists will also receive prizes. The entrance fee is 1s. per player. Tea will be provided by the District Committee. Entries must not be sent later than June 8, 1935, to the Hon. Secretary, H. R. Jones, Borough Treasurer's Department, Wolverhampton.



# LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY NOTES

By the LEGAL SECRETARY

## DEDUCTIONS FROM SALARY OR WAGES FOR SUPERANNUATION PURPOSES

THREE important decisions were given in a recent case in the High Court which, although the case related to the superannuation fund established by the Tees Conservancy Act, 1907 (a local Act) for persons employed by the Tees Conservancy Commissioners, may concern local government officers who are contributors under either the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, or the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896. The case referred to is *Tees Conservancy Commissioners v. James and Others* (51 T.L.R. 219; 99 J.P.149) which came before Mr. Justice Farwell in January last.

Section 4 of the Tees Conservancy Act, 1907, which for practical purposes is identical with the provisions relating to the deduction of superannuation contributions contained in Section 15 of the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, and Section 12 of the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, provides that subject to the provisions of the Act every officer and servant of the Conservancy Commissioners shall contribute annually for the purposes of this Act a percentage amount of his salary or wages according to the scale laid down by this Act such amount to be from time to time deducted from the salary or wages payable to him and to be carried to and form part of the superannuation fund. Section 7 contains provisions as to the percentage amount to be deducted.

There were five defendants, four ex-employees of the Commissioners who had already retired on superannuation and the fifth who was still an employee of the Commissioners. From the year 1915 onwards, in view of the increased cost of living, the Commissioners had paid to their employees certain bonuses in addition to wages. Until 1933 the bonus payments were not brought into calculation as salary or wages in assessing the amount of pensions payable under the superannuation scheme, but in July of that year the Court of Appeal (in an unreported case of *James v. Tees Conservancy Commissioners*), affirming a decision of Mr. Justice Maughan held that the bonuses were part of the salary or wages for the purposes of the Tees Conservancy Act, 1907, and that the amount of pensions to be paid must therefore be calculated on that footing.

The Commissioners thereupon commenced proceedings in the High Court for the determination of the following questions, viz.:

(1) Whether, in paying the pensions to the first four defendants, the Commissioners were entitled to deduct therefrom any, and if so what, sum in respect of the contributions which they had not deducted, but should have deducted in the past, from so much of the defendants' wages as represented bonus.

(2) Whether, in the case of the fifth defendant, the arrears of contributions in respect of the bonus could be deducted out of the wages which he would receive during his remaining period of employment.

(3) Whether, in paying the defendants their increased pensions, calculated on the footing that wages included bonuses, the Commissioners were exempted by the Statute of Limitations from paying increases in respect of bonuses received more than six years before the proceedings were commenced, or whether twenty years was the period applicable.

Mr. Justice Farwell held that the Commissioners were not entitled to deduct any arrears of contributions from the pensions payable to the first four defendants, and that in the case of the fifth defendant such arrears could not be deducted from the wages payable to him

in the future. The learned Judge also held that in applying the Statute of Limitations to claims by the defendants to increased pensions six years, and not twenty, was the period applicable.

In referring to Section 4 of the Tees Conservancy Act, 1907, Mr. Justice Farwell said: "There is, in my judgment, nothing in this section which imposes upon the employees any obligation to pay otherwise than by permitting the proper deductions, and the obligation to make the deductions is equally as binding on the commissioners as is the imposition upon the employees of the deductions which these commissioners are to make. . . . In my judgment, therefore, so far as the language of the Section goes, there is nothing here which imposes any liability on the employee to pay otherwise than by permitting a deduction, and the only deduction which can be made is a deduction from the wages or salary which is payable to him. If that be the true construction of this Act it must follow that in the case of those persons who have become entitled to a pension but have ceased to be in the employment of the commissioners there can be no deduction whatsoever, because, if I am right in the view I take as to the meaning of this Section, the only right to deduct is from wages or salary, and there being no wages or salary payable to those persons in future there can be nothing from which they can suffer a deduction."

In regard to the fifth defendant, the Judge said: "There is no obligation on him to pay, but there is an obligation on him to permit the deduction from his annual wages of the amount required for the superannuation fund. In my judgment, on the true construction of the Act, it means that in each year there must be a deduction from the wages of the appropriate amount. The plaintiffs will be entitled to deduct from the wages (including bonuses) hereafter to be paid to the fifth defendant, contributions in respect of bonuses which have been paid to him within one year prior to the date of the making of such deduction. But subject to that, there is nothing which enables the commissioners to make any deduction out of wages in respect of any sum which they ought to have deducted in the past."

On the question of the Statute of Limitations, Mr. Justice Farwell said: "... if this had been a case where the commissioners were entitled to make a claim against the employees the Statute of Limitations would be the period of twenty years. I think it is clear that would be an action on the statute, and as such a specialty debt, and as such that clearly would be the right period. But this is not a statute case, because in this case the employees are making a claim against a common fund. Again I emphasise the fact that there is nothing which in terms makes the commissioners liable to pay out of their own receipts. Their only obligation is to see that there is a fund out of which the payments are made. I think it is reasonably plain that this is a case where there is a claim against a common fund. According to the view expressed by Lord Esher M.R. and by Lopes L.J. in *Salford Corporation v. Lancashire County Council* (25 Q.B.D. 384) such a claim as that is one to which the Statute of James applies and six years is the right period."

In view of the decisions in the case of *Tees Conservancy Commissioners v. James & Others* it follows that arrears of contributions payable under either the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, or the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, cannot be deducted from the amount of the pension, and that the employing authority is only entitled to deduct in each year contributions in respect of salary or wages payable for that year, and cannot recover contributions which should have been deducted in earlier years.

But although the right to recover arrears of contributions may have become lost, both in the

case of a pensioned employee or a person who is still in the employment of the local authority, there would appear to be no reason why, in the latter case, an arrangement cannot be made between the employee and the authority for the deduction of arrears of contributions from future salary or wages, as was done in the case of *Gissing v. Liverpool Corporation*, 98, J.P.359.

## HOUSING BILL—EMPLOYMENT OF ARCHITECTS

On consideration of the Housing Bill b. Standing Committee A of the House of Commons on May 2 last, Mr. A. C. Bosson, M.P., moved that the following new clause be inserted in the Bill, viz.:

"It shall be the duty of a local authority to employ an architect or architects whose name or names is or are on the register of registered architects kept in pursuance of the Architects (Registration) Act, 1931, to design and superintend the construction of houses and blocks of flats erected by such local authority within their area."

The clause was supported by Sir J. Walker-Smith, M.P., and Sir P. Harris, M.P.

The Minister of Health (Sir Hilton Young, M.P.), who is in charge of the Bill, whilst intimating that it was the policy of himself and his Department to extend the services of the professional architect over as wide a field as possible, said that he was not prepared to accept the clause on behalf of the Government, as it was going too far and too fast. He added that the local authorities would have the very strongest objection to the clause, for the practical reason that it would knock out the services of a substantial number of their officials whom they at present employ and whose qualifications, from an architectural point of view, nobody would doubt in a practical way. The clause was negatived without a division.

## MANSFIELD CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The Borough of Mansfield inaugurated the celebrations of the Centenary of Local Government by giving a civic lunch. The guests of honour were the Rt. Hon. A. Greenwood, formerly Minister of Health, and Alderman D. H. Maltby, J.P., Freeman of the Borough of Mansfield and a member of the Town Council for over 50 years. Amongst the many other guests invited to the luncheon were the civic heads of the City of Nottingham and the Boroughs of Newark, Retford and Worksop, together with their Town Clerks, the Chairman and Clerk of the Notts. County Council and representatives of every phase of the civic, commercial, religious and philanthropic life of the community.

Mr. Greenwood sketched a vivid picture of a century of social reform and progress and visualised local government administration covering a much wider field in the future than at present. Whilst admitting that much of the present local administration was far from perfection, yet it could not be denied that it was one to be intensely admired and a pattern for the whole world, and a glowing tribute to the wisdom and foresight of those great pioneers of social reform whom we are especially remembering this year.

Other speakers at the luncheon included the Mayor of Mansfield (Mr. Coun. E. W. Mellors); Col. Sir Lancelot Rolleston, K.C.B., D.S.O., T.D., J.P.; Col. Sir Joseph Nall, D.S.O., T.D., J.P., M.P.; the Revd. W. A. Ferguson, M.A., Vicar of Mansfield; the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, the Mayor of Newark, and the Deputy Mayor of Mansfield. The celebrations include, amongst other things, the holding of a Civic Service and a Local Government Exhibition.



# AT RANDOM: COMMENTARY ON CURRENT TOPICS

By HYPERION

## Does the Wireless make you Wiser?

**A**N interesting questionnaire has been issued by the B.B.C. with a view to discovering how far the general public have availed themselves of the facilities afforded by wireless of improving their knowledge of public affairs, and social and political problems. A list of questions was drawn up on points of current public interest, all of which had been dealt with at some length in recent wireless talks or news.

The first batch of replies published in *The Listener* were those given by a working tailor, a guardsman, the wife of a colonel, a schoolboy aged 14, a daily general maidservant, an assistant storekeeper, a steelworker and a Scottish shepherd. They are very illuminating but not, I should imagine, particularly encouraging for the B.B.C. For example, to the question "What is Roosevelt's 'New Deal'?" the tailor replies "To turn the dollar into £1 notes. He is all finance, money up and money down like a Mickey Mouse." The colonel's wife says: "Don't know. I think people take very little interest in America—I never read about it." The daily general maid says: "Something to do with gold, isn't it?"

Of the eight people replying to the questionnaire, the best informed seem to be the schoolboy and the Scottish shepherd.

One question "What does the National Trust do?" was answered by the colonel's wife: "Don't know, looks after the Nation perhaps"; by the schoolboy, "Gives you Savings certificates"; by the daily general maid and steelworker "Don't know"; and by the Scottish shepherd "I doubt that being any trust at all."

However, one encouraging feature of the questionnaire is that all of the respondents knew who Mr. Hore-Belisha was. That was one question everybody got right!

But only four out of eight knew that Walt Disney invented Mickey Mouse. The Scottish shepherd replied to that question "Not Robbie Burns anyway; he invented sleekie mouse!"

## Belisha Beacons Once More!

The Minister of Transport's Beacons have proved a godsend not only to the pedestrian but to the stage comedian. They have evoked, among other things, a popular song called: "I've got those Hore-Belisha Beacon blues!"

A recent "gag" which I heard at the Revue "Let's Go Gay" was:

"I have never really understood why Mr. Hore-Belisha called them Beacons. After all you don't refer to a Pawnbroker's Beacons, do you? . . . I suppose it would be more etymologically correct to refer to them as Belisha's Yellow Spheres. . . ."

## Present Discontents

\* There is always a tendency to think of one's own time as peculiarly unsettled, full of change, licence and sophistication—to refer to all other epochs as naive and peaceful—"the good old days." It is, perhaps, useful to remember that after the downfall of Louis Philippe (1848) Queen Victoria wrote:

"I feel an uncertainty in everything existing which I never felt before. When I think of my children and their future I say to myself: 'Let them grow up fit for whatever station they may be placed in, high or low.' Things one would have complained of bitterly some months ago now seem trifles, provided one can keep one's position in quiet!"

Marjorie Bowen—*The Scandal of Sophie Dawes*.

## Leisure

Someone pointed out the other day that the twentieth-century man will move heaven and earth to gain five minutes and not have the least idea what to do with them when he has succeeded.

Lord Riddell, in his book *More Pages from My Diary*, recalled a story told to him by Mr.

Reginald McKenna about Lord Elibank (then Mr. Alec Murray).

Someone asked his man, "What recreation does Mr. Murray take? Does he fish or shoot, or ride or play golf?" "No," said the man. The enquirer continued "What does he do when he is not at home? Does he play cards or read?"

"No," was the reply, "he just telephones!"

## The American Attitude Towards Public Service

Mr. Vanderbilt is an enthusiastic supporter of the present President, and explains one reason for his success; under his influence American politics have become an occupation which attracts honest and intelligent men. He does not mention an even graver need of America, a respected and respectable Civil Service. I remember a prominent American lady explaining complacently to me that no able and well-educated American (like her own son) would dream of becoming anything so unambitious as a public servant. She could not see that she was boasting of an attitude directly responsible for most of the disorder, corruption and crime in her country. From a review by Raymond Mortimer in the *New Statesman*.

## Mixed Metaphor

The Council was still putting its house in order and he was anxious that they should not change horses crossing the stream, whilst there was much spade work to be done.—*Harrow Observer and Gazette*.

## Unparliamentary Language

Yes, these are stirring times. Did you notice the exchange of words between Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Leo Amery?

Mr. Churchill actually said in reply to Mr. Amery:

"I can assure Mr. Amery that on any question on which I may be in danger of boring the House, I will gladly refer to him for his advice and assistance. I cannot possibly have a greater expert on such a subject."

An interesting article by Michael MacDonagh on unparliamentary language appeared in a recent number of the *Nineteenth Century*.

That great work *Law and Usage of Parliament* gives a list of the following words which have been declared unparliamentary:

"Dodge," "jockeyed," "windbag," "hoiligan," "blackguard, traitor, slanderer, hypocrites, pharisee, cowardly, offensive, scurrilous, dishonest, "a scandal," "vicious and vulgar," insulting, shabbily, a dirty trick, criminal, disgraceful, wicked, corrupt, impudence, impertinence.

Even so, a member with a turn for invective has ample opportunity to obtain new rulings and create fresh precedents.

Mr. J. H. Thomas once caused some uproar by applying the word "humbug" to a tariff offer made to Great Britain by the Canadian Premier. When called to order he withdrew the word as a description of the man, but stuck to it as a description of the proposal.

"The word 'humbug,'" said Mr. Speaker, "is a colloquial expression which is hardly suitable to our debates." There was much merriment later when Mr. Snowden stated that he found "humbug" defined in *Murray's Dictionary* as "a word very much in vogue with people of taste and fashion."

"A common subterfuge," says Mr. MacDonagh, "takes the form of withdrawing a direct expression condemned by the Chair and substituting another of an equivocal nature. Mr. Jack Jones stigmatised a member as "a liar," and, being called to order, apologised and substituted "a terminological inexactitude." Mr. John Burns, attacking Joseph Chamberlain (Secretary of State for the Colonies during the South African War), described the newspapers which supported the war as being "owned by blackguards, edited by ruffians, and read by

fools." Mr. Speaker Gully took no notice of this expression, its application being to persons outside the House. But when Burns went on to describe Chamberlain's speech on the war being couched "in the language of the pothoos and in the spirit of the prize ring," the Speaker sternly declared that such an expression could not be allowed. Burns thereupon withdrew, and substituted "the language of the Stock Exchange" which made the House roar with laughter.

## Intelligence Test—Answer

The answer to the "Intelligence Test" which I propounded in the May "At Random" column is that the greatest number of cigarettes which a man could make on the eighth day is eight (not seven).

He collected forty-nine cigarette ends from which he made seven cigarettes and from the ends of those seven he made one additional cigarette.

## His Own Child

One of the most recent victims of the gongsters is the wife of a junior member of the Government, who at the time was driving her husband.

When the gongster sternly called attention to the infraction of the 30-mile speed limit the Minister protested that it was a rotten law.

To this the gongster replied: "That is the law, sir, and I didn't make it." "Well, I did," the Minister retorted with disgust.

## An After-dinner Story

Mr. J. C. Lockwood, M.P. for Central Hackney, responded and told the story of another M.P. who was called upon to reply for the visitors. He apparently forgot where he was and, after speaking for twenty minutes, remarked in a burst of eloquence: "I not only speak for you, but I speak for generations yet unborn, whereupon someone interjected: "If you do not hurry up they will be here before you have finished!" (Laughter.)

## Suggested Solution for the Shakespeare-Bacon Controversy

A dramatic critic, commenting on some actor's debut as Hamlet, once said that scholars should have kept watch beside the graves of Shakespeare and Bacon the night before to see which one of them turned over.

## Dr. Johnson Again

What an acutely penetrative mind Johnson had. Take three of his comments made in 1770 and recorded by the faithful Boswell.

"Being asked by a young nobleman what was become of the gallantry and military spirit of the old English nobility he replied: 'Why, my lord, I'll tell you what is become of it; it is gone into the city to look for a fortune.'"

"Speaking of a dull tiresome fellow, whom I chanced to meet, he said: 'That fellow seems to me to possess but one idea, and that is wrong one.'"

"Speaking of the national debt, he said, 'It was an idle dream to suppose the country would sink under it. Let the public creditors be ever so clamorous, the interest of millions must ever prevail over that of thousands.'"

To be happy at home is the ultimate end and all ambition.

## Apocrypha

One of my best inventions is that I played bridge with Tom Shaw the day he was made Minister for War, and pointed out to him that he was guilty of a grave dereliction from duty. "Suppose war were to break out?"

Tom, with that phlegm which is one of his many lovable qualities, is supposed to have answered: "There'll be no bother, lad, while I'm in office. I shan't be ready!"—*From James Agates' "Ego."*



### The Long Arm of Coincidence

I challenge any man in this world to think how he met his wife, or why he is living in his house, or how he found his job, or where all his friends came from, and not be astonished at the red thread that leads through a number of apparently disconnected circumstances. If it hadn't been for this or that or the other!—*From "Delay in the Sun," by Anthony Thorne.*

### More Howlers

So as not to get malaria when people go abroad, wise people get intoxicated before they leave England's shores.

The Romans left Great Britain quickly because they were afraid of the Gals.

Meteors are used to tell you how much electricity you are using.

A Conservative is a large greenhouse, full of hot air.

A motor is driven by an infernal combustion engine.

After Napoleon escaped from Melba, Wellington who had been to a ball at Richmond, met him at Waterloo.

Extract from Schoolboy's letter:

"... We had veal for dinner to-day and the housemaster calved."—*Punch.*

### Telling Him Off

A story about Dr. Richter in your columns under "Translators' Slips" reminds me of another one attributed to this great conductor.

The scene was an orchestral rehearsal of a Wagner opera, and the second flute played a natural instead of a flat in a critical passage. Twice was the orchestra stopped and the offender cautioned. On the third attempt the same thing happened again. Whereupon the great man lost his temper, crashed down his baton, swung round and shook his fist at the culprit, addressing him thus: "You, second vlute, I can stand your damma nonsense then and now, but sometimes, always, by God, nevaire!"—*Douglas H. Coke, in a letter to the "Sunday Times."*

"Every silver lining has a cloud"

(or have I got it wrong?)

The loss of a husband invariably brings out the best qualities of the woman.—*From a "Charitable Appeal."*

Or, as the old lady in *Punch* remarked, "maybe he's like most husbands—a blessing in disguise!"

### Jubilee Dilemmas

"Even patriotic generosity," writes "Critic" in *The New Statesman*, "is beset with difficulties. By way of contributing to the Jubilee, a municipal worthy in the West of England has arranged to have an ox roasted in traditional style. The flesh is to be free to all who come bringing plates with them. No sooner was this proposal announced than he received a telegram from a vegetarian society protesting that he was maltreating a dumb animal, causing offence to His Majesty's Hindu subjects and generally outraging humanity. His reply was to this effect: "I strongly resent your uncalled-for advice about how I should spend my money. I do not see any difference between the roasting of a dead animal whole on the village green and the roasting of thousands of dead animals every day in sections in individual ovens. If the former gives offence to His Majesty's subjects in India, why not the latter? I have not seen fit to decree that you should not roast a potato, whole, in Hyde Park in honour of the Jubilee; why should you attempt to stop my roasting an ox?"

"This on first-hand authority. I also hear from a less reliable source that in some parts of Scotland there is a dearth of local wood for Jubilee beacons. Debate now rages whether it is more proper to burn Russian wood as a token of disrespect to the Soviet regime or to burn Empire wood as a sign of proper Imperial sentiment."



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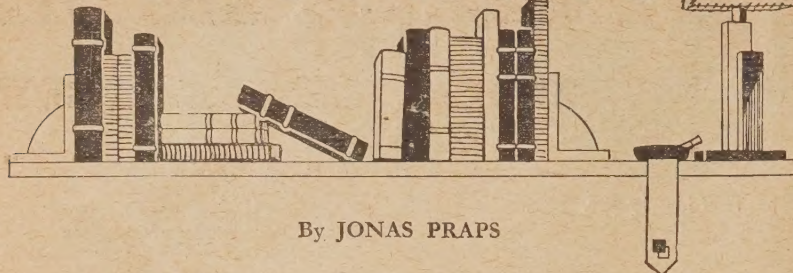
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# NOTES FOR READERS



By JONAS PRAPS

## Through Africa by Ford

**M**R. CONYERS LANG made the journey through Africa not as a speed test but with the idea of studying its people and conditions, its natural history and sport. "Buffalo" (Ivor Nicholson, 12s.) tells the story of his adventure. He bought a Ford van, setting off alone from Cape Town, intending to use it as a home when necessary. The title is rather misleading, the experiences are much more extensive than buffalo hunting. His lone night vigil after lions is a creepy affair, and in an interlude he makes one realise the danger and disagreeableness of whaling. Not the least interesting are the accounts of the native friends he made, and his journey over a mountain pass 6,000 feet high makes the average motor reliability run seem a very feeble affair. The book is fully illustrated.

## Strained Relations

Miss Stella Gibbons in her books is careful to tell the reader "the characters in this story are fictitious." The story "Enbury Heath" (Longman, 7s. 6d.) is of three young people who, after the death of the widowed father, a drunken, dissolute but popular doctor, live together in a cottage in the outskirts of London. The elder brother is an actor, the younger just leaving school. The girl, something in a publishing office, rather highly strung and impulsive, is a finely drawn character. The clash between these three and their numerous uncles and aunts is the main theme of this very well-written book. The characters are not so grotesque as those in a previous book ("Cold Comfort Farm.").

## Prisoner of War

Although related in the form of a novel, "Idle Warriors," by Bertram Ratcliffe (Faber and Faber, 7s. 6d.), is from all accounts very largely autobiographical. The chief character is a young British officer captured in the early days of the war in 1914. In many respects it is less personal than the majority of war novels, describing life in the various prison camps and many of his fellow captives—Garabedian and his numerous escapes, so numerous as to justify the question of the guard when two other prisoners escaped "Ah! Herr Garabedian, so you are still here": the Major, not nearly so fortunate, who lost his life in his first attempt at escape. The story ends with the escape of the hero over the Dutch border. There are no lurid pictures of war, suffering and pain, but a plain straightforward story of a soldier in captivity.

Mr. John F. Leeming displays a quiet contemplative style in telling how "The Garden Grows" (Harrap, 7s. 6d.). The dilettante reader will appreciate the delightful manner in which the author relates how a piece of wild uncultivated land became a garden with a house attached. The story of its growth, the making and stocking of the pool, the development of the bird sanctuary, and finally the building of "the barn" has something akin to Beverley Nichols about it but without his caustic comments upon neighbours. The picture is developed with the slow movement all gardening books should display: technicalities are absent.

C. V. Wedgwood's "Stafford 1593-1641" (Cape 15s.) is well worth reading. It is an excellent picture of the man and his times from his early days in his Yorkshire home as Sir Thomas Wentworth, his entry into Parliament and the strife associated with parliamentary life in those days, his rise to fame as Earl of Stafford, his impeachment, trial and execution on Tower Hill. Perhaps the chapter dealing with his work as Lord Deputy of Ireland gives more clearly than any other the character of the man. He certainly was in the picture in that turbulent period of history.

Whether Major "Mick" Mannock was the greatest air fighter of the war, or whether the German claim of this distinction for Von Richthofen holds good is immaterial so far as the interest of the story of Mannock's heroism is concerned. In "King of Air Fighters" (Ivor Nicholson, 10s. 6d.) Flight-Lieutenant Ira Jones, himself no amateur at the game, tells of Mannock's wonderful prowess in recording 73 victories over enemy aircraft. It is an inspiring record of courage.

The third annual general meeting of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Students' Society of the Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers was held at the City Hall, Cardiff, recently. Mr. E. W. Barker, City Treasurer and Controller, was re-elected President for the third successive year. The second annual dinner followed immediately after the meeting. The toast of "The Society" was proposed by Mr. F. J. Alban, C.B.E., F.S.A.A., and the response was made by Mr. E. W. Barker, F.I.M.T.A., A.S.A.A.

## INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS IN-CHARGE

The thirty-fifth annual dinner of the Institution of Engineers-in-Charge, held at the Holborn Restaurant on April 12, was in the nature of a special celebration in connection with the King's Silver Jubilee and the Centenary of Local Government. There was a record attendance. A telegram of congratulation to their Majesties was sent at the commencement of the evening, the reply being read during dinner. The President of the Institution, Mr. E. A. Sandford-Fawcett, C.B., M.Inst.C.E., presided. The toast "Our Government and Municipal Services," was proposed by Mr. William Reavell, and responded to by Mr. R. G. Hetherington and Mr. T. Pierson Frank. In proposing the toast Mr. Reavell said that Parliamentary and Municipal government of England was a model for the world, but what we still lacked in municipal affairs, was a really representative civic spirit which would make electors realise that to gain their privileges they had a duty to perform, and that a truly representative local government could only come from one hundred per cent. interest on the part of the people.

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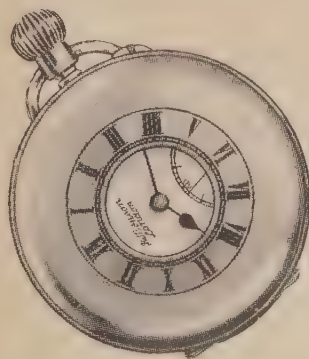
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## HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been issued to branch officers from headquarters:—

MAY 2, 1935.

Circular No. 38/Prov./1935.

(To local correspondents of the Nalگو Provident Society.)

(a) Enclosing copies of the agenda for the annual general meeting, 1935, for distribution to members of the Society.

(b) Enclosing a copy of the minutes of the annual general meeting, 1934, to be handed to the representative of the branch attending this year's meeting.

MAY 10, 1935.

Circular No. 39/Ed./1935.

(To branch secretaries and education correspondents.)

(a) Concerning this year's summer school and enclosing copies of a syllabus and of a poster for display.

(b) Giving information regarding two essay competitions.

MAY 9, 1935.

Circular No. 40/B.O./1935.

(To branch secretaries.)

Concerning the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Purse Session at the annual conference at Cheltenham.

MAY 14, 1935.

Circular No. 41/B.S./1935.

(To Building Society correspondents.)

(a) Concerning fixed mortgages under the Building Society.

(b) Regarding new mortgage business.

MAY 9, 1935.

Circular No. 42/1935.

(To branch secretaries.)

Enclosing a copy of a leaflet showing the articles which are manufactured in the Association's colours and giving information relating to the purchase of such articles.

MAY 17, 1935.

Circular No. 43/Conf./1935.

(To members of the National Executive Council, the honorary officers of the association and to delegates appointed to attend the annual conference by district committees, branches and sectional and professional organisations.)

(a) Enclosing final agenda for the annual conference at Cheltenham.

(b) Enclosing division cards and giving information regarding the voting.

(c) Enclosing a postcard for notification of travelling arrangements.

(d) Giving last date for receipt of entry forms in connection with the competitions at Cheltenham.

(e) Regarding applications for tickets for tours, entertainments, etc., at Cheltenham.

## NALGO APPROVED SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NALGO APPROVED SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1935, AT LIVERPOOL.

## IMPORTANT DATES

June 7.—Annual general meeting of Nalگو Provident Society.

June 8.—Whit Saturday. First day of Conference proceedings.

June 10.—Whit Monday (Bank Holiday). Second day of Conference proceedings.

June 11.—Annual general meetings of (i) Education correspondents; (ii) Nalگو Building Society; (iii) Logomia.

June 24.—Renewal premiums due on N.A.L.G.O. Household Insurance Comprehensive Bonus Policies.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members are requested to note that the address of the official insurance brokers on the N.A.L.G.O. Motor Insurance Scheme, Messrs. Norman Frizzell & Partners, Limited, will be altered, as and from June 24, to: 52-54 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3. Telephone: Mansion House 5626 (10 lines). Telegrams: Enfrizzell, Bilgate, London.

## NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

APART FROM HEADQUARTERS PAGE AND NOTES OF THE MONTH, THE JULY ISSUE OF "LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE" WILL BE WHOLLY DEVOTED TO THE REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, AND OUR OTHER REGULAR FEATURES WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL AUGUST. THE AUGUST ISSUE WILL ALSO CONTAIN REPORTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS OF EDUCATION CORRESPONDENTS, NALGO PROVIDENT SOCIETY, NALGO BUILDING SOCIETY, AND LOGOMIA.

## COST OF LIVING

Below, we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months: December, 44; January, 43; February, 42; March, 41; April, 39; May, 39. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follows:—

	Mar.	Apr.	May.
Food .. ..	22	19	18
Rent .. ..	56	56	58
Clothing ..	90	90	90
Fuel and Light	75	75	70
Other items ..	70	70	70

## HOLIDAY CENTRES

The vacancies at the Holiday Centres at the time of going to press are as follows:

### CAYTON BAY

8th-29th June and from  
7th September.

### CROYDE BAY

8th-15th June. 29th June-  
13th July, and from 14th  
September.

As the vacancies for the June and July periods are very limited immediate application should be made.

## SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS

### Salary Reductions

The Brecknock County Council and the Rhondda Urban District Council have agreed to terminate salary cuts on July 1, 1935.

### Superannuation

At Ripon, the Finance Committee have recommended the Council to adopt the Superannuation Act.

Mexborough Urban District Council and Swinton Urban District Council have agreed to obtain an actuarial report prior to the consideration of the adoption of the Superannuation Act.

Durham Corporation have already obtained a report.

Some time ago the Felling Urban District Council decided to dismiss all officers and employees on attaining the age of 65. Six of the persons affected were members of the local branch of the Association.

Continuous representations have been made during the past few months, but it seemed impossible to induce the Council to revise their decision. Very great hardship would have been inflicted in some instances, as the Council have not yet adopted the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922.

The pressure which has been brought to bear, however, has at last had a happy effect. On May 7 a notice of motion in the following terms appeared on the Council agenda, and was unanimously adopted:—

"That the date of the determination of the notices to the employees over the age of 65 years be suspended *sine die*, and that meanwhile the Council go into the question of a superannuation scheme for the whole of the employees."

We should like to express to the Urban District Council our sincere thanks for their decision. It has been hailed with intense relief by the employees generally. Finally we should like to extend to Councillor J. McVay of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and Councillor J. W. Mitchell, of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, who were also interested in this case, our great appreciation of their cordial and sympathetic co-operation.

### Salary Scales

Sowerby Urban District Council have adopted the scale of salaries of the West Riding Joint Council in respect of the clerical staff.

Applications for improved salary scales on behalf of the sanitary inspectors have been made to the Tyne Port Sanitary Authority, and to South Shields Town Council in respect of the health visitors.

At a general meeting of the staff of the Gateshead Corporation, the action of the representatives of the Branch in negotiating with a special sub-committee of the Finance Committee the new salary and grading scheme was unanimously endorsed, and the five representatives of the Branch on the newly formed local negotiating committee appointed.

One pleasing feature about the negotiation is that there has been a general expression of opinion on both sides that any settlement arrived at should achieve a degree of stability which has been sadly lacking in the past.

In these circumstances, an agreement being drawn up for signature, which will have the effect of stabilising the present figures for a period of five years.

Derbyshire County Council has approved the granting of a merit salary increase of £1 to members of the Administrative Staff, passing the final of the N.A.L.G.O. Examination.

The Divisional Secretary recently waited the Finance Committee of the Workingmen's Corporation in connection with a revision of salaries, when it consented to receive, without prejudice, a model grading scheme, based on the Whitley Council report.

(Continued on page 171)



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## NOTES OF THE MONTH

**W**HILST the report on the Compulsory Superannuation Bill will be sure to disappoint the representatives who will attend the Cheltenham Conference within a few days from this issue reaching their hands, the amount of work put in by the National Executive Council must be adequately recognised.

It is exactly twelve months ago since Sir Henry Jackson, M.P., introduced in the House of Commons the Association's Bill to amend the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, with the object of bringing into operation a compulsory scheme for all local government officers. That step, as it was designed, did force the situation to the extent of the Bill being withdrawn on the understanding that some official action would be taken.

### A Year's Work

As the report of the National Executive Council to Conference points out, Sir Arthur Robinson, Secretary to the Ministry of Health, received a deputation from the Association on June 7 last, and that day marked the commencement of very useful work being done by the various authorities' associations, the Trades Union Congress, and N.A.L.G.O. A joint committee of those important organisations was set up, and a number of meetings were held at the instance of the Ministry of Health and in consultation with officers of the Department, for the purpose of considering how far it was possible to arrive at a substantial measure of agreement on the subject of a compulsory superannuation Bill for the local government service, and as the result of the discussions which took place agreement between the bodies referred to was reached on all the important questions of principle involved. A draft

Bill has been prepared and is substantially in a form in which it could be introduced.

All this work was hurried forward in the hope that we should be able to introduce the Bill as a Private Member's Bill, but unfortunately the Government decided to take the whole of the Private Members' time for the session in view of their very heavy programme of prospective legislation. We were also told that time could not be found for the Bill to be introduced as a Government measure.

This was a great disappointment and it created a situation which could not be very easily overcome. On April 4 last a joint manifesto was sent to the Prime Minister signed on behalf of the Association of Municipal Corporations, County Councils Association, the Urban District Councils Association, the Rural District Councils Association, the Trades Union Congress, and N.A.L.G.O. In that joint letter a very strong appeal was made to the Prime Minister to find time for the passing of what was deemed to be an agreed and simple measure of administrative justice.

### Present Anomalies

Attention was called to the chief disadvantages of the existing situation. There are still a very large number of local authorities who employ persons—in many instances working side by side—some of whom have superannuation rights (for example, persons contributing under the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, whose rights under that Act were preserved on transfer to these authorities by the Local Government Act, 1929, or the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925), whilst the remainder have no pension to look forward to on retirement.

Owing to the fact that there are many local authorities who have no superannuation scheme in operation, whilst other authorities have in force a superannuation scheme established under a Local Act instead of the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, there is great restriction of movement in the Local Government Service. The Departmental Committee on the Superannuation of Local Government employees in 1928 in their report laid great stress upon the good effect on the efficiency of the service that would follow from the adoption of arrangements favourable to mobility.

### Official Committees' Verdict

These points have been carefully investigated by three Departmental Committees, all of whom have recommended the establishment of a compulsory superannuation scheme for persons employed by local authorities, the first being the Norman Committee who issued their report as far back as 1919; the second who reported in 1928; and the Committee on Qualifications, Recruitment, etc., of Local Government Officers, who in 1934 said "Compulsory superannuation for officers was recommended by the Departmental Committee on the Super-

annuation of Local Government Officers (1928). In our view this is essential to the welfare of the service, and we hope that the Committee's recommendations will be carried out at the earliest opportunity."

### Prime Minister's Reply

This step has also drawn a blank. On the 13th of last month and on the eve of going to press with this issue, the following reply was received from Mr. Ramsay MacDonald:

"I have carefully considered the representations in the letter of the 4th April which has been addressed to me by the Associations of Local Authorities in England and Wales, the Trades Union Congress General Council, and the National Association of Local Government Officers, requesting the Government to give facilities for consideration by Parliament during the present session of a Bill to provide for the compulsory extension to all local authorities in the United Kingdom of the principle of superannuation for the persons employed by them. Your letter further suggests that in view of the large measure of agreement which has been reached the Bill would not be likely to occupy much Parliamentary time.

"I am afraid that my information is such that I cannot take the view that a Bill like that outlined in the letter will not be controversial. In particular, the proposal to apply the principle of compulsory superannuation to servants as well as officers raises issues of importance, and I understand also that a number of points require further working out before legislation could be introduced.

"The Government realise the importance of the considerations and proposals set out in your letter, but there is at present a very great pressure of public business before Parliament, and I much regret that it is quite impossible for me to give any undertaking on behalf of the Government that facilities can be given for the passage of a Bill during the present session."

### Rate of Contribution

It will be observed from the above letter that, whilst the local authorities and the officers and the workmen know exactly that they want and are united in that knowledge, apparently the Government Departments have not yet made up their minds what is the right thing to do. Apart from the point mentioned in the Prime Minister's reply, we do know that the Government's Actuaries' Department intends to ask for a higher rate of contributions for new entrants in view of the altered circumstances since the passing of the 1922 Act concerning the earning capacity of investments.

Conference should know these facts and what tremendous difficulties the Association is up against, but it is not intended to leave the matter just where the Prime Minister found it. A letter to

(Continued on page 170, col. 2)



# DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

## SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE

The District Committee met in the City Hall, Cardiff, on April 6, Mr. A. J. Gould (Clerk to the Rhondda Guardians Committee) presided, supported by Mr. J. W. Clayton, J.P., vice-chairman. There was a large attendance of branch representatives.

The report of the executive was approved. This included recommendations regarding the centenary of local government, and an expression of satisfaction at the efficient way recent slander actions had been dealt with by the Association.

On behalf of the district, the chairman made a presentation of a radio-gram to Mr. T. C. Evans (Glamorgan County Council), who had been honorary secretary of the South Wales B. & O. Fund Committee since its formation in 1922, and who had been compelled to relinquish the office through ill-health. The chairman said the presentation was to mark and not to measure their appreciation, for they realised the large amount of work Mr. Evans had carried out so efficiently and genially for the benefit of his less fortunate colleagues. Mr. Weslake Hill (Cardiff) recalled that Mr. Evans joined the staff of the Cardiff Corporation in 1907, and within twelve months was honorary secretary of the Cardiff City Branch. Later, he obtained his present appointment with the Glamorgan County Council, and throughout his service with both authorities had given his best to the Association. Mr. Evans thanked the committee for the presentation, and said that while he had been compelled to give up the work he had so much at heart he hoped for many years to be of service to N.A.L.G.O.

Detailed consideration was given to the report to the forthcoming annual conference and to the conference agenda. It was decided to submit an amendment to the paragraph in the report dealing with National Minimum Scales of Salaries, deploring the fact that no concerted action had been taken to put the scales into operation, and requesting the National Executive Council to launch such a campaign as soon as possible.

In connection with the scheme of loans for educational purposes it was resolved that the National Executive Council should be asked, in the light of their experience of the working of the scheme, to give the extension of the scheme their consideration, and to submit a report to the 1936 Conference.

Increased membership was reported, especially at Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil.

## EAST MIDLANDS

A well-attended meeting was held in the City Council Chambers, Leicester, on April 13, Mr. G. H. Parkin (Chairman) presiding. Keen satisfaction was expressed that the National Executive Council had decided to support the District Committee's nomination of Mr. J. L. Holland, Director of Education, Northampton County Council, as a Vice-President of the Association. The Committee approved grants of £4 each to five small Branches to enable them to send representatives to the Annual Conference. Reference was made to the delay on the part of some Branches in forwarding summary sheets to Headquarters. The District Committee decided to call the attention of all Branches to the importance of monthly collections of subscriptions and prompt forwarding of returns.

The Divisional Secretary reported that the district membership at October 31, 1934, was 4,873, and at January 31, 1935, 4,982, so that the district had failed by 18 members only to gain a third member of the National Executive Council; that the Ilkeston Branch had been re-established from May 1; that the Leicestershire County Council had terminated

salary reductions on March 31, 1935; that revised scales of salary had been approved by the Lindsey County Council, and a scale for senior female staffs approved by the Derby County Borough Council; and that on appeal to the Ministry of Health, three claims for compensation under the Nottingham Corporation Act had been increased from £98 6s. 8d. per annum to £211 per annum from April 1, 1933.

The Committee gave detailed consideration to the Annual Conference Agenda and Report. It was decided to submit several amendments.

## WEST MIDLANDS

Mr. F. Harrod (Coventry) presided over a well-attended meeting at the Coventry Technical College, Stafford, on May 11. The representatives were welcomed by Mr. F. A. Hughes, Director of Education, Stafford, on behalf of the Stafford County Officers' Branch, and by Alderman Whitehouse, Chairman of the County Education Committee, who, in an address, remarked that the County Council were proud of the amicable relationship which existed between the staff and the Council; in the 27 years of his membership he did not think the relations had been more satisfactory than at present. He hoped that Council and staff would continue hand in hand dealing with the problems confronting them.

The Chairman reported on a meeting with representatives of the Birmingham Municipal Officers' Guild. The discussion at the meeting he described as "frank." A circular issued by the East Midland District Committee regarding the Vice-Presidency of the Association was considered and approved. It was decided to support the election of Mr. J. L. Holland, Director of Education for Northamptonshire, as junior Vice-President of N.A.L.G.O. It was reported that Mr. F. Harrod and Mr. G. A. Stone (Worcester County Council) had been elected by the District on the National Executive Council. Mr. G. C. V. Cant (Dudley), Mr. G. A. Stone, Mr. H. Mitchell (Wolverhampton), and Mr. F. Harrod were appointed to represent the Committee upon the Regional B. and O. Committee.

The Committee agreed that the Salop County Council Branch should retain 40 per cent. of subscriptions. They also approved amendments to matters on the Annual Conference Agenda tabled by the Executive Committee. It was reported that the membership increased by 264 to 4,759 in 1934, and that the Brierley Hill Urban District Officials had formed a Branch.

## NOTES OF THE MONTH

(Continued from page 169)

the Minister of Health has already been drafted and will be dispatched before the Conference opens expressing the Association's keen disappointment with the whole business, and asking that the Government Departments should, without any further delay, make up their minds what it is they want. The local authorities' associations and the representatives of the officers and the workmen have done their best to arrive at an understanding and to make it easy for the Government to pass a non-controversial Bill, and it has been pointed out to the Minister that it would be most unfortunate if all that very valuable work should be allowed to stagnate.

## "BEANO" 1935

### RESULTS OF THE CHELTENHAM SLOGAN COMPETITION

The following are the results of the Slogan Competition, organised by N.A.L.G.O. (Cheltenham Conference B. & O. Effort Committee) First Prize, £20. (Your Faith, Their Hope Our Charity.) C. A. March, Broomlands, Cambridge Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough. Second Prize, £15. (Organised Friendship in Action Against Distress.) W. T. Jarvis, Council Offices, Leatherhead. Third Prize, £10. (Serves Generously, Preserves Respect, Deserves Support.) Maurice Walker, 112 Oxendon Street, Leicester.

4. G. R. Jennings, Rotherham.
5. George A. Watson, Tynemouth, Northumberland.
6. George Brand, South Shields.
7. E. J. Widgery, Winchester, Hants.
8. Arthur N. Armstrong, Mansfield, Notts.
9. L. M. Crow, Leeds 7.
10. M. W. H. T. Johns, Burnley, Lancs.
11. C. G. Tomkins, Manchester 9.
12. Percy Charles Wade, Ipswich.
13. Charles Simmons, Oxford.
14. W. Fox, Hove 4, Sussex.
15. Miss B. E. Dougan, Oxford.
16. W. E. Jones, Wakefield.
17. F. W. Williams, Hereford.
18. T. W. Jones, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
19. E. S. Power, Oxford.
20. E. G. Bothwell-Maye, Preston, Lancs.
21. Arthur Teale, Leeds 8.
22. F. Thackeray, Merthyr Tydfil.
23. W. H. Cox, Paddington, London, W.2.
24. K. Balchin, Palmers Green, London, N.13.
25. A. V. Chamberlain, Cardiff.
26. John S. Viggers, Gosport, Hants.
27. D. R. Downton, Southampton.
28. Miss D. J. Goddard, Cheltenham.
29. Miss J. M. Stables, Coventry.
30. J. K. B. Howell, Morecambe.
31. E. J. Parsons, Barry, Glam.
32. Miss E. Goodchild, Winchester.
- 33 & 34. F. J. Smith, St. Helens.
35. Cyril Holloway, Skipton.
36. F. W. Foulger, Greenwich, London, S.E.10.
37. L. C. Eagles, Hornchurch, Essex.
38. J. Young, Maidstone.
39. Walter E. Balchin, Dartford.
40. Charles Dobb, Chadderton.
41. Miss J. V. Rhodes, Leeds 8.
42. William H. E. Moore, Norwich.
43. W. H. Smettem, Scarborough.
44. P. J. Barsby, Nottingham.
45. John H. Fraser, Leeds 7.
46. Mrs. A. E. Wells, Blethley, Bucks.
47. H. Clews, Preston.
48. J. Dempsey, Slough.
49. Charles A. Tuffin, Bromley.
50. H. D. Martin, Hastings.
51. William Gilbert, London, N.19.
52. Miss Helen E. Raepier, Manchester.
53. T. A. Saunders, Woolwich, London, S.E.18.
54. George Pagdin, Sheffield 7.
55. J. I. Barnett, Brighton 6.
56. J. H. S. Masters, Swindon.
57. Mrs. F. G. Barber, Garstang, nr. Preston.
58. Mrs. M. Smale, Exmouth.
59. C. W. Gower, Dorking.
60. R. J. Edwards, Pentre, Rhondda.
61. W. Calvert, Stockport.
62. E. N. Judge, Plymouth.
63. Miss Pat Smale, Exmouth.
64. Mrs. M. E. Bingley, Chesterfield.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Oldham Branch of Nalgo regrets to announce that it has been found impossible to charter a steamer for a Cruise during 1935.



## PERSONAL

Mr. Richard James Bryant, for over 36 years Clerk and Financial Officer of Wealdstone, has retired from active public life. At the time of his resignation from the local government service, he held the office of President of the Harrow Branch of the National Association of Local Government Officers. He has given a cheque for £10 for a cup or trophy for the tennis section of the sports activities of the Branch, attaching no conditions to the gift. The Branch expressed warm appreciation of this gift in a letter to Mr. Bryant and the cup will be known as "The Bryant Cup."

A farewell presentation was made in the Liverpool Port Sanitary Offices, before a large gathering of officials, on April 27, when Mr. W. G. Dunning, Chief Clerk, retired on superannuation after 39 years' service. Mr. Dunning entered the Public Health Department of the City of Liverpool in 1896, serving under Dr. E. W. Hope for a number of years, and was appointed in 1902 to take charge of the Port Sanitary Offices. The presentation of a wireless set and cheque was made to him by Dr. W. M. Frazer, Medical Officer of Health.

The death has occurred, after over twelve months of severe illness, of Mr. George William Sparkes, late Chief Clerk of Works at Paddington, who retired in July, 1934, after 23 years' service with the Council. Mr. Sparkes, who took a keen practical interest in the welfare of his fellow local government officers, was a member of the Executive Committee of the Paddington Branch for eight years, during three of which he acted as President. He was a member of the Metropolitan District Committee of the Association for eight years; of the London District (Whitley) Council for four years; and he served for ten years as a member of the staff side of the Local Whitley Committee. He was a Life member of the N.A.L.G.O. B. and O. Fund.

In connection with the Jubilee celebrations at East Ham, the Honorary Freedom of the Borough was conferred upon Dr. W. Benton, J.P., from 1910 to 1933 Medical Officer of Health of the Borough; Mr. Edward Keenan, aged 85, the oldest hospital worker in East Ham; and Miss E. E. R. Davis, who was for 36 years Honorary Superintendent of East Ham Nurses' Home. The Mayor, who made the presentation, addressing Dr. Benton, congratulated him on his service to the borough during his period of office as Medical Officer, and paid a tribute to Mr. Keenan for his work for the hospitals.

## SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS

(Continued from page 168)

An application has been made to Tyldesley Urban District Council for consequential revision of salaries following amalgamation.

An application has been made to the Marple Urban District Council for the adoption of the junior and general division scales of the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council in place of its present standard of remuneration which is totally inadequate.

The Atherton Council has been asked to receive a deputation from the Association regarding revision of salaries under the Whitley scales.

### Grading

An application regarding promotion of junior clerks, submitted by the Divisional Secretary, has been approved by the Brecon County Council. In future, the senior junior clerk on the staff will be promoted to any vacant third-class clerkship, provided his service is satisfactory, and he is desirous of taking up the vacant post.

West Hartlepool Town Council have agreed, on the recommendation of the Rating Committee, that three members of the temporary staff be placed on the permanent staff.

Representations have been made to the Public Health Committee of Liverpool Corporation regarding the salaries of District Medical Officers, who were not favourably dealt with under the recent revision. Representations have also been made to the Minister of Health in connection with the position of a Relieving Officer, whom the Corporation have attempted to de-grade to the status of Assistant Relieving Officer.

An application is being made for re-grading of certain officers of the Macclesfield Corporation who were on the original grading subjected to a revised maximum on the condition that the matter should be reconsidered after a period of time.

Representations have been successfully made to the Birkenhead Electricity Committee regarding the promotion of juniors to the establishment of the department. Further representations are to be made regarding consequential promotions to the pyramid establishment laid down by the Council.

Following representations made by the Divisional Secretary, Stalybridge Corporation have requested the Provincial Whitley Council to submit a model grading scheme and establishment.

### Office Hours

The Leicester City Council have approved a revision of office hours from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., with one-and-a-half hours for lunch; on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

### Holidays

Worcester City Council at its meeting on May 7 adopted the standard of annual leave for all subordinate officials according to years of service, suggested by the Local Branch.

The scheme provides:—

Service.	Period of annual leave.
Under 10 years .. ..	12 working days.
10 years or over, but under 15 years .. ..	15 working days.
15 years and over .. ..	18 working days.

Exclusive of Bank and Public Holidays.

Previously all officers had 12 working days irrespective of length of service.

Newport (Mon.) County Borough Council, at its meeting held on May 14, adopted the following holiday scale on the application of the local Branch in place of 12 days holiday for all members of the staff, excepting chief officers:—  
Under 1 year's service .. At the discretion of the Chief Officer.

1 to 10 years' service ..	12 working days.
10 to 20 do. ..	16 do.
Over 20 do. ..	18 do.
All Deputies ..	18 do.

Previous service with another Local Authority to count.

Saturday to be counted as a whole day.

Where it is found necessary, for the purpose of the efficient organisation of the work in any Department, the Chief Officer shall be authorised to require any member of his staff entitled to extra days over and above the twelve working days' annual holiday to take such extra days in the early or later part of the year.

### RATING ON DIFFERENT BASES

A lecture on "User in Relation to Rating" was given by Mr. A. Auffleck (Acting County Valuation Officer for the West Riding of Yorkshire) at a meeting of the Yorkshire Branch of the Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers at Wakefield. Mr. Auffleck dealt with the difficult question of how far it is possible to value two similar properties on different bases, because they are used for different purposes. The comparative assessments of banks and shops, and the effect of unmade roads on the value of houses, was also mentioned.

## TO JUNIOR ENTRANTS

Having commenced your duties in the Local Government Service another important duty is to select an Approved Society for National Health Insurance purposes which will provide the best sickness and treatment benefits. Your colleagues will tell you, from personal experience, that the best Society is the one which caters for Local Government Officers only. The benefits provided are SICKNESS, DISABLEMENT AND MATERNITY BENEFITS, DENTAL, OPTICAL HOSPITAL AND CONVALESCENT TREATMENT, SURGICAL APPLIANCES AND PENSIONS.

**NALGO APPROVED SOCIETY—24 Abingdon St., London, S.W.1**



## NALGO SPORT

The Luton Swimming Club has entered upon its third season and a comprehensive programme is arranged. The annual subscription for members of the Association is 2s. and 1s. 6d. for those under 18. Three challenge cups are competed for annually. The "Newton" Cup is for beginners of either sex, the "Tarbox" Cup for gentlemen, and the "Leeder" Cup for ladies. All of these cups have been presented to the club by local members.

The Social Club of the Hastings Branch concluded their winter programme by playing the finals of the table tennis and billiards competitions at their Club Room on Monday, April 29.

The Councillor Honnor Cup for Billiards was won by Mr. B. W. Steward, while Mr. A. Mabbett won the Councillor Dobell Cup for Table Tennis. Miss C. E. Spencer won the Women's Singles for Table Tennis. Mr. W. Norman King (Director of Education), the President of the Branch, welcomed Councillor A. Honnor and asked him to present the cups and prizes. Mr. D. R. Phillips, Chairman of the Branch, proposed a vote of thanks to the President and Councillor Honnor.

Other prize-winners were: *Table Tennis*: Men's Handicap Singles, Mr. G. W. Inskipp; Women's Handicap Singles, Miss F. E. Mullord; Men's Doubles, Mr. G. W. Inskipp and Mr. F. W. Butcher; Mixed Doubles, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Inskipp; Women's Doubles, Mrs. F. Inskipp and Miss A. Redfern. *Snooker*: Open—Winner, Mr. H. R. Savage; runner-up, Mr. W. D. Banks. Handicap—Winner, Mr. B. W. Steward; runner-up, Mr. W. L. George. Pairs—Winners, Mr. H. J. Brown and Mr. F. W. Butcher; runners-up, Mr. W. D. Banks and Mr. D. V. Hills.

The draw for the first and second rounds of the West Midland Tennis Competitions, 1935, are as follows: *Men's Doubles*: First Round—(a) Oldbury v. Wednesbury; (b) Sutton Coldfield v. Wolverhampton; (c) Worcester C.C. v. Coventry. Second Round—Winners of (a) v. Smethwick; Walsall v. Winners of (b); West Bromwich v. Winners of (c); Worcester City v. Salop C.C. *Mixed Doubles*: First Round—(a) Walsall v. Wolverhampton; (b) West Bromwich v. Sutton Coldfield; (c) Coventry v. Worcester City. Second Round—Winners of (b) v. Winners of (a); Winners of (c) v. Smethwick.

The Final Round of the Yorkshire District Football Competition was played on Saturday, April 13, on the Recreation Ground of the London and North Eastern Railway, York, between teams representing Hull and Rotherham Municipal Officers, Rotherham winning by two goals to one. The Clegg Challenge Cup was presented to the Rotherham team by Mr. R. Anderson, Town Clerk of York.

Keen interest has been evinced by the various teams during the course of the North Eastern District Football Competition. The final round played on the Blackhall Colliery Welfare Ground between teams representing Gateshead and Durham County Branches, resulted in a victory for Durham by two goals to one.

## EXHIBITIONS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

The following Exhibitions, Scholarships and Prizes are offered under the Association's Scholarships Scheme:—

10 Exhibitions of the value of £20 each will be awarded on the results of the Intermediate Examinations of the following professional and technical bodies to assist members to prepare and sit for the Final Examinations:—

Examining Body.	Examinations on the results of which awards will be made this year.
1. National Association of Local Government Officers .. ..	Jan. 1935 May 1935
2. Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants .. ..	Jan. 1935
3. Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors .. ..	Nov. 1934 May 1935
4. Institute of Cost and Works Accountants .. .. .	Dec. 1934 Jun. 1935
5. Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers ..	May 1935
6. Chartered Institute of Secretaries .. .. .	Jun. 1934 Dec. 1934 Jun. 1935
7. Incorporated Secretaries Association .. .. .	Dec. 1934 Jun. 1935
8. Poor Law Examinations Board (Clerical Assistants Examination)	Apl. 1935
9. Library Association .. .. .	Dec. 1934 May 1935
10. Law Society .. .. .	Jun. 1934 Nov. 1934 Mar. 1935 Jun. 1935

16 Scholarships of the value of £20 to £30 each will be awarded to enable members to obtain Degree or Diploma including advanced study of Public Administration, and 16 Prizes of the value of £10 each will be awarded to enable members to attend the Association's Summer School, on the results of the Final Examinations of the following examining bodies:—

Examining Body.	Examinations on the results of which awards will be made this year.
1 to 10. The examining bodies mentioned above .. .. .	As above
11. Poor Law Examinations Board (Relieving Officers Examination)	Apl. 1935
12. Poor Law Examination Board (Institution Officers Examination)	Apl. 1935
13. Board of Trade (Inspectors of Weights and Measures Examination) .. .. .	Jul. 1934 Nov. 1934 Mar. 1935 Jul. 1935
14. Institution of Municipal and County Engineers (Testamur Examination) .. .. .	Oct. 1934 May 1935
15. Poor Law Examination Board for Scotland (Poor Law Diploma)	Oct. 1934 Apl. 1935
16. Royal Sanitary Association of Scotland (Sanitary Science Examination) .. .. .	Oct. 1934 Apl. 1935

Rules, Application forms and full particulars are obtainable on application to Headquarters.

(Continued on next page)

All Local Government Officers should read the Arresting Article by  
**Mr. L. Hill**, General Secretary of N.A.L.G.O.

To appear on Friday, June 7th,  
in "The Municipal Journal."



# WOMAN'S PLACE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

By an Ex-County Borough Councillor

HOW many people realise that this is the centenary year of English municipal government! A century ago public services were practically unknown. Most people lived in the country and leading men in each village would meet periodically to discuss local affairs. There was little knowledge of the causes of disease and ill-health and no public health administration. With the growth of industrialism and the consequent drift of population from villages to towns, conditions became appalling. Much as people in the country suffered from diseases due to dirt and ignorance, the conditions in crowded towns were infinitely worse.

Houses were built without the slightest regard for drainage, ventilation, light or water supply. The removal of refuse was nobody's business. Rivers and wells became polluted, with the result that drinking water was swarming with disease germs. Epidemics ravaged the towns until the people were roused to seek protection, and Parliament was forced to produce legislation which laid the foundations of our present Public Health Administration, the finest in the world to-day.

Since then many great battles have been fought in Parliament to increase the powers of Local Authorities and enlarge the scope of municipal government. For many years little progress was made. To-day, the Town Hall more directly affects the homes of the people than does Parliament itself.

During the six years I was a member of a county borough council I became increasingly conscious that the average woman knows next to nothing about municipal work and does not think it part of her business to be informed or interested. Even more than the average man she takes things for granted. In a way this is remarkable because so many of the powers now exercised by local authorities are of the highest importance to women and the

experience they could bring to bear upon the administration of such powers would be a definite gain to the community.

Since the war there has been a great volume of legislation inspired with the desire to give the child of to-day a better start in life than had the child of yesterday. It is not yet generally recognised that local authorities now have powers which can help the child even before birth. They can, if they so desire, establish as my council did, ante-natal clinics where expectant mothers can receive expert advice about their food and their general health, and the things which make so much difference to health and happiness. Ante-natal work is of great importance. Where clinics have been opened many families have been spared the sadness of the death of the mother during childbirth.

## Infant Welfare

The work of infant welfare centres where the mother can get hints, and advice on diet, clothing, and all the many things that make the difference between well-being and not getting on, is another aspect of municipal administration which to-day affects thousands of homes and should attract the closer attention of women than unfortunately it does. A county or county borough council is obliged by law to set up a maternity and child welfare committee. Such a committee can do much. Something it is compelled to do. But as a rule it does no more than the electors press it to do.

A broad basis of education is essential to democracy. For that reason the work of the local education committee is of vital importance to the community. Its responsibility is to train children for the whole of life; not only to earn their livings but to teach them how to enjoy leisure which once was regarded as the privilege of the few. The old idea that schools are places where children should learn to read, write, and

reckon, just to make the child useful, should be as dead as the dodo. What we shall need to-morrow is the intelligent, adaptable child of to-day, trained to observe and to reason, and possessed of faculties which have been trained to function quickly and accurately. We should try to give the children not only the education which will help them to make a good contribution to the world's needs but also one which will enable them to make the very best of their own private lives.

## Parents and The Schools

For this reason the personnel of an education committee, dealing as it is empowered to do with the child from the nursery school to the secondary school and later, is of the utmost importance to parents. Happily, experience has proved that most local educational authorities are controlled by educational enthusiasts who seek to bring parents into closer contact than ever they were before, with the work of the schools. Parents' day is now a recognised medium of bringing together both teachers and parents to the undoubted good of the child and the school. The importance of the educational work of a local authority cannot be over emphasised. The rich heritage of liberty which our democratic self-government assures each child at birth, will never be in danger whilst an enlightened educational policy exists.

## The Future

When women wake up to the fact that local government has a daily and direct effect upon their lives, and that administration from the Town Hall is at least as important as the work of Parliament a further impetus will be given to progressive legislation. The wide powers already conferred upon local councils to deal with slum-clearance and housing, the provision of parks and the preservation of open spaces, the planning of new development areas, the erection of public baths and wash-houses, the building and equipment of schools, libraries and art galleries: in very few cases are the full powers used. In enforcing the fullest use of the powers already possessed, women can be invaluable.

But in matters relating to public health, maternity and child welfare, education, hospitals, and public assistance, women have a special knowledge and experience which should be available to an infinitely greater extent than at present, to every local authority.

A century ago women had no rights of citizenship and took no part in the politics argued around the parish pump. To-day they take their citizenship for granted. When will they begin to show any real anxiety to learn more about local government which touches them so nearly?

## EXHIBITIONS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

(Continued from preceding page)

### LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATION

Applications for awards under the Scholarships scheme in respect of the following examinations must reach Headquarters not later than the dates specified below:—

Date of Examination	Examining Body	Last date for receipt of applications
March, 1935	Law Society	June 29, 1935
April, 1935	Poor Law Examination Board for Scotland (Poor Law Diploma Examination)	June 29, 1935
April 1935	Royal Sanitary Association of Scotland (Examination in Sanitary Science)	June 29, 1935
April, 1935	Board of Trade (Weights and Measures Inspectors Examination)	July 20, 1935
April, 1935	Poor Law Examinations Board:— Institution Officers Examination Clerical Assistants Examination	August 24, 1935 August 24, 1935

Applications for awards are due at Headquarters not later than two months after the date of the publication of the results of the examination which qualifies the candidate for entry for an award.

Two months after the date of the publication of the results of an examination held between 1st September and 31st August (in the case of examinations held on more than one occasion during that period, two months after the date of the publication of the results of the latest of such examinations) a list of applicants for awards will be prepared and forwarded to the appropriate examining body with a request that the examining body will make nominations from the list of applicants.

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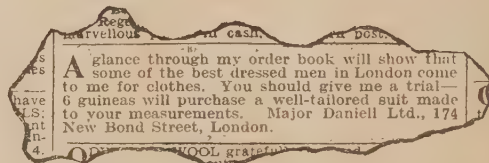
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# METROPOLITAN DISTRICT RE-UNION

## AWARD OF THE SPORTS TROPHIES AND PRIZES

**P**OPULARITY of this function in previous years dictated the ambitious decision to hold the 14th annual reunion and concert of the Metropolitan District of the Association at the Royal Albert Hall, and the attendance on Friday, April 26th, amply justified the experiment. Last year, as Mr. Frank R. Finch, Chairman of the Metropolitan District Committee observed, the annual reunion was held at the Queen's Hall, but on that occasion admission had to be refused to many colleagues.

It was announced during the evening that the following telegram had been sent to His Majesty the King: "The representatives of twelve thousand Local Government Officers serving over one hundred Municipal Authorities in the area of Greater London are this evening assembled at the Royal Albert Hall celebrating the annual reunion and distribution of the forty-four sports trophies of the Metropolitan section of the National Association of Local Government Officers. This year marks the Silver Jubilee of Your Majesty's Reign and the Centenary of Local Government. We humbly beg to ask that Your Majesty will be pleased to accept the united loyal greetings of all Local Government Officers in the Metropolis and that we may be allowed to echo the earnest hope and desire of all your subjects that Your Majesty and Her Majesty the Queen may be spared and granted health and strength long to continue Your most illustrious and beneficent reign."

The following telegram was received in reply from the Private Secretary to His Majesty: "I am commanded to convey to all those assembled at the Royal Albert Hall this evening the sincere thanks of the King and Queen for their kind message of greeting and good wishes for the forthcoming Silver Jubilee."

A first-class programme of entertainment was given, and the evening was an undoubted success. At an interval in the programme, Mr. Finch addressed the audience, expressing the thanks both of the Metropolitan District Committee and of Local Government Officers throughout the Metropolitan area to those who had arranged the function. Particular mention was made of the efforts of Mr. W. H. Lakin, Hon. General Secretary of the District Committee, and Mr. T. F. Dunning, Hon. Secretary, Sports and Recreations Sub-Committee. The presentation of trophies was made by Mr. Philip H. Harrold, who has accepted the Presidency of the District Committee, and high tribute to Mr. Harrold's work for the Association was expressed by Mr. Finch. Among those present were Mrs. Harrold; Mr. Sam Lord (ex-President of the National Association); Mr. L. Hill (General Secretary) and Miss Hill; Mr. J. Simonds (Legal Secretary, National Association); Mr. C. F. M. Powning (Hon. Treasurer, District Committee); Mr. C. J. Newman, Town Clerk of Exeter (Chairman of the South Western District Committee); Mr. T. M. Kershaw (Metropolitan District Divisional Secretary); Mr. H. Slater (Education Secretary).

The "Municipal Journal" Golf Challenge Cup—individual championship—(presented by the Proprietors of the *Municipal Journal*) was presented to the winner, Dr. J. Young (Teddington), the runner-up being Mr. W. B. Wignall (Mitcham). The Metropolitan District Sports and Recreations Branch Championship—the "Municipal Journal" Championship Bowl (presented by the Proprietors of the *Municipal Journal*) was awarded to Middlesex, the runners-up being Croydon, and third place being gained by Leyton. New trophies donated to the District Committee during the past year and presented by the donors to the respective winners, were: Water Polo Team Championship—the "East Ham" Cup (presented by the East Ham County Borough Officers' Association); winners, Middlesex; runners-up, East Ham; Ladies' Handicap—the "Beatrice Finch" Cup (presented by Mr. Frank R. Finch); winner, Miss Andrews (Leyton); runner-up, Miss Harding (Ilford).

### LIST OF PRIZE-WINNERS

The following is a list of the other winners and runners-up of challenge trophies, etc., for the year 1934-35:—

**BADMINTON.**—Gentlemen's Doubles (Team) Tournament: the "Croydon" Cup (Presented by the Croydon Municipal Officers' Association), winners, Woolwich.

**BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER POOL.**—Billiards Team Competition: the Metropolitan District Billiards Cup. (Presented by Messrs. Kendal and Dent), winners, Fulham; runners-up, Lambeth. Billiards Individual Championship: the "Leonard T. Snell" Cup. (Presented by Mr. Alderman Leonard T. Snell, F.A.I., late Mayor of Paddington), winner, Mr. W. H. Taylor (Willesden); runner-up, Mr. Freeman (Leyton). Snooker-Pool Team Competition: the "West Ham" Cup. (Presented by the West Ham Branch of N.A.L.G.O.), winners, Wandsworth; runners-up, Bermondsey. Snooker-Pool Pairs Championship: the "Ilford" Cup. (Presented by the Ilford Branch of N.A.L.G.O.), winners, West Ham; runners-up, Wandsworth. Snooker-Pool Individual Championship: the "Bulphitt" Cup. (Presented by Mr. C. F. Bulphitt), winner, Mr. H. J. McCluskey (Holborn); runner-up, Mr. Braund (Ilford).

**BOWLS.**—Single Rink (Four Players) Competition: the "Stanley Crosse" Cup. (Presented by Mr. Councillor C. Stanley Crosse, C.C., late Mayor of Paddington), winners, Croydon; runners-up, Lewisham. Pairs Competition: the "Paddington" Cup. (Presented by the Paddington Local Government Officers' Association), winners, Surrey; runners-up, Tottenham. Single-handed Championship: the "Edwin Hayes" Cup (Presented by Mr. Alderman Edwin W. Hayes, late Mayor of Lewisham), winner, Mr. J. H. F. Lloyd (Tottenham); runner-up, Mr. J. Crowther (Lewisham).

**BRIDGE.**—Team Competition: the "Hammer-smith" Cup. (Presented by the Hammer-smith Branch of N.A.L.G.O.), winners, Middlesex "B"; runners-up, Middlesex "A."

**CHESS.**—Team Competition: the "Coombs" Chess Challenge Cup. (Presented by the late Mr. E. A. Coombs, M.B.E., F.S.A.A., per the Kensington Municipal Officers' Guild), winners, Middlesex; runners-up, Hackney. Individual Championship: the "Mary Lord" Chess Challenge Cup. (Presented by S. Lord, F.S.A.A., Past President of N.A.L.G.O., Borough Treasurer of Acton), winner, Mr. D. Love (West Ham); runner-up, Mr. J. D. Chance (Hornsey). Individual Handicap Competition: the "Bailey" Chess Cup. (Presented by Mr. E. W. Bailey, A.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer of Bethnal Green, per the Bethnal Green Branch), winner, Mr. W. R. Farmer (Camberwell).

**CRICKET.**—Team Competition: the "Lambeth" Cricket Shield. (Presented by the Lambeth Municipal Officers' Guild), winners, Croydon and Willesden (drawn).

**FOOTBALL.**—Team Competition: the Metropolitan District Football Shield. (Presented by the Metropolitan District Committee), winners, Croydon; runners-up, Fulham.

**LAWN TENNIS.**—Ladies' Doubles Championship: the "Lady Duncan Watson" Cup. (Presented by Lady Duncan Watson, per the St. Marylebone Staff Association), winners, Croydon; runners-up, East Ham. Mixed Doubles Championship: the "St. Marylebone" Cup. (Presented by the St. Marylebone Staff Association), winners, Merton and Morden; runners-up, Croydon. Gentlemen's Doubles Championship: the "Willesden" Cup. (Presented by the Willesden Staff Association), winners, St. Pancras; runners-up, Kingston, Surbiton and District. Ladies' Individual Championship: the "Mrs. G. E. Brydges" Cup. (Presented by Mrs. G. E. Brydges, per the Ealing Branch of the N.A.L.G.O.), winner, Miss E. Hillier (Surrey),

runner-up, Miss F. Wells (East Ham). Gentlemen's Individual Championship: the "Mrs. G. E. Brydges" Cup. (Presented by Mrs. G. E. Brydges, per the Ealing Branch of the N.A.L.G.O.), winner, Mr. G. L. Downing (St. Pancras); runner-up, Mr. R. H. Patrick (Coulston and Purley).

**MOTORING.**—Reliability Trial: the "Wembley" Cup. (Presented by the Wembley Branch of the N.A.L.G.O.), winner, Mr. W. J. Brock (Middlesex); runner-up, Mr. M. C. Revell (West Middlesex).

**RIFLE SHOOTING.**—Team Competition: the "Johnson" Rifle Shooting Shield. (Presented by Sir Arthur P. Johnson, M.A., J.P., Past President of N.A.L.G.O.), winners, Middlesex; runners-up, Hampstead.

**ROAD WALKING.**—Team Race (Teams of Three): the "Westminster" Challenge Shield. (Presented by the Staff of the Westminster City Council), winners, Lambeth; runners-up, Bethnal Green. Team Race (Teams of Four): the "Lawson" Challenge Cup. (Presented by Lord Burnham), winners, Lambeth; runners-up, Enfield. Individuals Race (confined to Metropolitan, City and Borough Council Officials): the "Smith" Challenge Cup. (Presented by the late Mr. J. A. Smith), winner, Mr. A. I. Bell (Lambeth); runner-up, Mr. C. D. Turbayne (St. Marylebone). Individuals Race (confined to Officials outside Metropolitan, City and Borough Council Staffs): the "Dawes" Challenge Cup. (Presented by the late Mr. J. Arthur Dawes, M.P.), winner, Mr. N. A. L. Burt (London C.C.); runner-up, Mr. I. Jones (Merton and Morden).

**SWIMMING.**—Championship Team Race: the "Middlesex" Challenge Cup. (Presented by the Middlesex County Officers' Association), winners, Middlesex; runners-up, Willesden. Handicap Team Race: the "A. P. Johnson" Challenge Bowl. (Presented by Sir Arthur P. Johnson, M.A., J.P., Past President of N.A.L.G.O.), winners, Leyton; runners-up, Finsbury. Ladies' Championship: the "Hackney" Cup. (Presented by the Hackney Branch of N.A.L.G.O.), winner, Miss Edward (Leyton); runner-up, Miss Andrews (Leyton). Gentlemen's Championship: the "Beckenham" Cup. (Presented by the Beckenham Branch of N.A.L.G.O.), winner, Mr. L. Cogger (P.L.A.); runner-up, Mr. J. H. Woodward (L.H.C.J. Elect. Authy.). Gentlemen's Handicap: the "W. G. Maers" Cup. (Presented by the Camberwell Branch of N.A.L.G.O.), winner, Mr. R. Turner (St. Marylebone); runner-up, Mr. E. P. Cole (Middlesex). Gentlemen's Breast Stroke Championship: the "Bedford" Cup. (Presented by the Hampstead Municipal Officers' Guild), winner, Mr. J. G. Davis (Middlesex); runner-up, Mr. T. A. Towndrow (Barnes). Gentlemen's Plunging Championship: the "Leyton" Cup. (Presented by the Leyton Branch of the N.A.L.G.O.), winner, Mr. H. A. Baker (Bethnal Green); runner-up, Mr. A. E. Maker (Leyton). Gentlemen's Diving Championship: the "Arthur Purkis" Cup. (Presented by Mr. Arthur Purkis, Town Clerk, Deptford), winner, Mr. J. Saunders (Deptford). runner-up, Mr. A. A. Bacon (Middlesex);

**TABLE TENNIS.**—Team Competition: the "Hampstead" Cup. (Presented by the Hampstead Municipal Officers' Guild), winners, Bethnal Green; runners-up, Middlesex. Gentlemen's Doubles Championship: the "W. G. Maers" Cup. (Presented by the Camberwell Branch of the N.A.L.G.O.), winners, Bermondsey; runners-up, Heston and Isleworth. Ladies' Individual Championship: the "Surrey" Cup. (Presented jointly by Surrey C.C. Branch and Metropolitan District Committee), winner, Miss E. Craighill (Ealing); runner-up, Miss H. Sieff (Surrey). Gentlemen's Individual Championship: the "Bermondsey" Cup. (Presented by the Bermondsey Branch of the N.A.L.G.O.), winner, Mr. G. W. Marshall (Camberwell); runner-up, Mr. L. B. Bailey (Bethnal Green).



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## SCOTTISH NOTES

### Compensation: Scottish Decision

**L**ORD CARMONT has now issued a second Interlocutor in the case of *Carnegie v. Roxburgh County Council*. The action was of the nature of a test case.

There was, first of all, the question whether the practice hitherto followed in Scotland whereby an official had his compensation assessed for loss of office irrespective of any new appointment he might receive was a proper one. The other question related to the right to receive payment of compensation awarded under the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926. There was a third question which will be of interest to Inspectors of Poor. It raised the point whether a Local Authority could determine the office of an Inspector of Poor under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929, since it was argued that that office was not abolished by the Act and that it could only be determined by a minute of the Department of Health for Scotland.

In 1899 Mr. George Carnegie was appointed Inspector of Poor and Clerk to Melrose Parish Council. He was also appointed Collector of Rates and held other minor offices. In 1920, he was appointed to act also as Inspector of Poor for the small Parish of Bowden in Roxburghshire. When the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926, came into force, Mr. Carnegie's appointment as Collector of Rates was abolished, and he received compensation in respect of such abolition. As a result of the passing of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929, the functions of the Parish Councils of Melrose and Bowden were transferred to and vested in Roxburgh County Council.

Some time after transfer, the County Council sent a letter to Mr. Carnegie terminating his office as Inspector of Poor and other appointments and offered him the appointment of District Inspector of Public Assistance in the Melrose area. He accepted these appointments, but in the action he raised it was contended that in making this arrangement both parties understood and intended that the effect should be that the pursuer would have his compensation assessed for loss of office in terms of the Act of 1929, payment of such compensation being suspended while he held the new appointment. It was also contended that it was part of the agreement that he should continue to receive payment of his Rating Act compensation. He argued, therefore, that the agreement was entered into under mutual essential error and should therefore be reduced.

### Lord Carmont's Judgment

His Lordship, in his first Interlocutor, which appeared in our issue of October last, stated that he would be prepared to hold that there was in the correspondence no abolition of the office of Inspector of Poor such as contemplated by Section 27 (4) of the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926. The other questions mentioned above are dealt with in the present Interlocutor.

Considerations of space do not enable us to give the Interlocutor in full in this issue. His Lordship held it proved that both parties acted on the footing that the termination of the pursuer's tenure of the offices of Inspector of Poor involved his getting an assessment of compensation if and when a claim was put in by the pursuer. It might well be that both parties believed that under the Act of 1929 and the statistics therein introduced by reference, the pursuer was entitled as a matter of law to an assessment of compensation if he put in a claim. His Lordship saw no reason, however, to deny to the pursuer a declaration that the agreement founded on this error was void merely because it was based on a misunderstanding of the law.

Considering the whole facts, His Lordship held that the agreement to terminate the pursuer's employment as Inspector of Poor of Melrose and Bowden was void. He was prepared to hold that the pursuer's employment was not validly terminated by the defenders. It was impossible to say now that the pursuer was en-

(Continued in col. 3)

## BRIDGE FORUM

### NEW LAWS OF CONTRACT BRIDGE

By NEVILLE HOBSON

**A**N outline of the recent changes in the scoring at Contract was given in the last article, which also dealt with the reduced slam bonuses and the general effect of these alterations on bidding and tactics.

The new Laws, which came into operation on the 1st of April last, are of such importance that further consideration must be given to them, and it is proposed to summarise some of the amended penalties and other rules.

#### New Deal

Under Law 13 there must now be a new deal by the same dealer if "a player has looked at a card dealt to him."

Hitherto this procedure has been necessary in the case of an obvious mis-deal, or the turning up of any card, but the new regulation prescribes a fresh deal in every case where a player picks up the cards and looks at them before the deal has been completed. This should be particularly noted.

#### Irregularities

Any player may now call attention to an irregularity, irrespective of his position in relation to the offending player, and he may discuss with his partner the appropriate penalty and the law covering the point. There is an express veto, however, against partners consulting as to the advantage gained by exercising any particular option.

#### Misnomers

Any misnomer may now be corrected without penalty, but this privilege is not to be used to cover the correction of any "mistake" or any "change of mind" in the making of the call.

#### Insufficient Bid

Unless such a bid has been over-called before the other side has drawn attention to it, it must be made sufficient either in the same or any other denomination, and if the offender selects—(a) the lowest sufficient bid of the same denomination: his partner is debarred from bidding at his next turn; (b) another bid altogether: his partner must pass throughout.

It should be borne in mind that if, e.g., a player were to bid 5 diamonds, in mistake, over a bid of 5 hearts, he is not compelled to bid 6 diamonds but can substitute a bid of 5 No Trumps (or 5 spades.)

#### Call Out of Turn

Any call out of rotation is cancelled, and the player whose turn it was to call must make his declaration in the ordinary way.

If the premature call was a pass made before the first bid, the offender must pass the next time; but if he made a call out of turn other than a pass before the first bid, his partner is debarred from bidding throughout the auction.

#### Faced Cards

Cards faced or disclosed during the auction must be placed face upwards on the table, and the Declarer can prohibit the opening lead from being made in the suit of the exposed card, or he may treat it as a "penalty card."

If such a card is an Honour, the owner's partner has to pass throughout the auction.

When a card is exposed during the actual play of the hand (after the bidding has been concluded), it becomes a "penalty card" and must be left on the table until played. Whenever it is the turn of the defender who owns it to play, he is compelled to play it—subject to his obligation to follow suit.

#### Lead-Out of Turn

This may be ignored by the opposition at their discretion, but the following penalties can be enforced: (a) If the lead out of turn is made by the Declarer: either defender can require him to take the lead back and to lead the same

suit from the correct hand; (b) If the irregular lead is by a defender: the Declarer may either treat it as a penalty card, or require the lead of a specified suit from the other defender if he won the previous trick, or otherwise from the defender who next wins a trick.

[If, therefore, South is the Declarer and—before West has led to the first trick—East on his right leads out of turn, South can either treat East's lead as a penalty card, or may call a lead from whoever of his opponents wins the next trick.]

It is realised that this article is of a somewhat technical nature, but it is essential that Contract players should keep themselves up to date as regards the main laws—though it should be emphasised that the above changes do not affect the laws of Auction Bridge, which are the same as those which were published by the Portland Club in 1932.

No attempt has been made to summarise the new Laws in regard to "Revokes," and players are urged to obtain a copy of "The Laws of Contract Bridge, 1935," published at 1/- by Thomas de la Rue & Co., Ltd.

(Continued from col. 1)

titled to hold office under the defenders by the same tenure and upon the same terms and conditions as those which applied to his employment under the Parish Councils, in view of his resignation last August. It followed that the reductive conclusion of the summons should be granted and the pursuer restored against the agreement of 30th and 31st May *in integrum*. Dealing with the question of compensation, His Lordship said he proposed to give the pursuer an opportunity of reconsidering his position in regard to the conclusions of the summons in the light of the opinion given, and the cause would be continued.

#### Salary Cuts

We have had several applications before Local Authorities in connection with discontinuance of the remaining salary cuts. All these have been granted or are, we believe, in process of being granted. Glasgow Corporation, however, is not removing the cut on salaries above £350 until January 1 next. Indeed, at first, there was a proposal to give back only the half of the cut at that date, but we strongly protested against this, and finally the decision already mentioned was arrived at. I think our members may take it, however, that we have now seen the last of the cuts in Scotland.

#### Superannuation

Steady progress is being made with a number of Superannuation Schemes, and Clydebank, Motherwell, Falkirk, Oban, Dunoon and Argyll County Council are all taking steps towards the adoption of Schemes. The Burgh of Stirling is also moving in the same direction, we believe, and a fresh effort is being made in Dundee, which is now the only large Local Authority in Scotland that has not adopted a Superannuation Scheme. We believe that a substantial majority of the members of Council favour a Scheme, and it is amazing how, for one reason or another, such a Scheme has not yet been adopted. We trust that the efforts now being made in Dundee will meet with success on this occasion.

#### Scottish Summer School

We would give a final reminder to our members of the meeting of the Scottish Summer School at St. Andrews University from June 22 to 29. It should be emphasised that it is open to any member of the Association or any member of a Local Authority to attend the School.



# REVIEWS OF BOOKS

## Africa Dances

**BOSWELL:** *Lord Monboddo still maintains the superiority of the savage life.*

**JOHNSON:** *What strange narrowness of mind is that, to think the things we have not known, are better than the things which we have known.*

**BOSWELL:** *Why, sir, that is a common prejudice.*

**JOHNSON:** *Yes, sir? but a common prejudice should not be found in one whose trade it is to rectify error.*

(Boswell's "Life of Johnson.")

Let me say at the outset that "Africa Dances" by Geoffrey Gorer (Faber & Faber, 15s.) is one of the best travel books that I have read for a very long time. It is, I think, better than Peter Fleming's much-praised "Brazilian Adventure," because the author is not content with recording the reactions and impressions of the travellers, but describes in a most interesting way the habits and customs of the natives and gives a sympathetic and imaginative account of negro mentality.

Mr. Gorer journeyed through French West Africa with Feral Benga, an African Dancer (who had had a great personal success in Paris) in order to study the dances of various negro races.

His book, which is the result of this journey, is a vivid, if unorthodox, account of what he saw and heard. Mr. Gorer has a humane, original and unprejudiced mind and is an outspoken and wholehearted champion of the negro point of view. His account of the methods of French colonial administration is rather disheartening, and one is glad to know that British methods in West Africa are more humane, if not more imaginative.

The author describes negro life and dances and evinces a completely frank and unsentimental attitude towards sex. This book is not for the squeamish, for the author deals with the ritual sacrifices and sex customs with that enviable matter-of-factness accorded to them by the negroes, to whom sex and magic are as much part of every-day life as eating and drinking.

He sums up, for example, the negro attitude towards magic in the following sentence:

"It is part of the underlying idea of all negro magic that a part of a thing is equal to the whole—a man's nail clippings or skull are the man—and a thing which is like a second thing is to all intents and purposes the second thing—a wax image is like the man it is modelled after, therefore it is the man, and anything done to the image is done to the man."

Mr. Gorer is perhaps unduly harsh towards missionaries, as he considers Christianity unsuited to the negro.

He does not, I think, make allowances for the fact that it is far easier to be a satisfactory savage than a saint. But his book does, at least, make us realise that the black races have as much to teach us as we have to give them.

"Africa Dances" is a well-written, fearless and fascinating book. Do not miss it. It is illustrated by numerous photographs taken by the author.—C. K. W.

## Wonderful London

Amalgamated Press, 6s.

Of the numerous Jubilee books and publications which I have seen, "Wonderful London" (Amalgamated Press, 6s.) is my favourite. The original edition was published nine years ago, under the editorship of the late St. John Adcock. This Jubilee edition was decided upon in view of the interest which will centre in our historic capital in this year of Jubilee. It is a comprehensive pictorial and literary survey of the present-day life of London.

In a short notice, it is impossible to do justice to it, and it must be sufficient to say that it contains not less than 205 photographic views beautifully reproduced in photogravure. The high standard of the literary side of the book can be judged by the names of the distinguished

contributors. Thus, J. B. Priestley writes on "How London strikes the Provincial"; Alfred Noyes on "The Magic of London"; Frank Rutter on "Round the Picture Galleries"; Robert Lynd on "Morning and Evening Rush"; H. V. Morton on "Sunday in Town"; H. M. Tomlinson on "Down at Dockland"; and G. K. Chesterton on "The Case for Old London."

I should like to quote extracts from E. V. Knox's chapter on "Cockney Humour" but space will not permit.

Wonderful London would be a most suitable gift for young persons or for old persons as a commemoration of this year's Jubilee.—C. K. W.

## Frustration of Science

Messrs. George Allen and Unwin have published at 3s. 6d. "The Frustration of Science," comprising a series of essays which seek to demonstrate that our social organisation is unable to use the present series of modern science and its immediate potentialities. The book, we are told, is addressed to all scientists who are alive to the social consequences of their work and to all thinking people who realise how closely the future of civilisation is connected with the constructive and destructive consequences of science, rightly or wrongly applied. Contributions include Sir Daniel Hall, Professor V. H. Mottram, and Professor P. M. S. Blackett.

## New Novels

"The Lady of the Plain," by Harold Bindloss (Ward Lock & Co., 7s. 6d.), is a Canadian novel written by one who has an intimate knowledge of Canada. Here one gets a realistic picture of life on the prairie.

In "The Blue Sash," by Ottwell Binns (Ward Lock & Co., 7s. 6d.), an officer of the Foreign Legion is on secret service to discover the source and destination of an epidemic of gun-running in Morocco, and makes a startling discovery. A vivid story of adventure whose pace never slackens. "Into the Fog," from the same publishers (7s. 6d.), describes the adventures of a man who, motoring through Cornwall, sees a girl kidnapped. A novel that lacks nothing in thrills.

## William Cobbett

When William Cobbett decided in 1834 to close *The Political Register*, he announced his intention to publish the history of his life under the title of "The Progress of a Ploughboy to a seat in Parliament"; but this intention was never carried out. In "The Progress of a Ploughboy," published by Faber and Faber, Ltd., 24 Russell Square, London, W.C.1, 3s. 6d., Mr. William Reitzel has collected the fragments of Cobbett's own records into one continuous narrative; all but a few linking passages are of Cobbett's own composition. It furnishes a vivid picture of English life and manners a hundred years ago.

## Libraries and Museums Year Book

"The Libraries, Museums and Art Galleries Year Book, 1935" (A. J. Philip, Lodgewood, Gravesend, 25s.) covers a very wide range. The latest edition includes a directory of suppliers, glossary, list of library associations and of the libraries, museums and art galleries in the British Isles. There are also lists of enlarged areas under sections 46 and 49 of the Local Government Act, 1929; of regional libraries; of colonial and foreign libraries; statistics of the British public libraries; and sections are devoted to biographies, special collections and a select addressing list.

## Remembrancer of Local Land Charges

There has recently been published by the Society of Clerks to Urban District Councils a Remembrancer of Local Land Charges prepared by Mr. R. H. Wright, clerk and solicitor of

Surbiton Urban District Council, and Mr. A. H. Edwards, clerk and solicitor of Herne Bay Urban District Council. The idea of the register is to convey to an intending purchaser every information affecting the property which he might reasonably desire to learn and which registrars can reasonably give and it is generally held, therefore, that in carrying out this idea registrars should not consider so much whether the strict letter of the law compels them to register certain information, but whether the spirit of the law seems to render it desirable in the interests of intending purchasers that they should do so. Copies of this Remembrancer may be obtained from the honorary secretary of the Society of Clerks of Urban District Councils, Old Court House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts., at a cost of 2s. 9d. each post free.—J.P.

## Two Local Histories

"The Civic History of the Town of Cavan," by Terence S. Smyth, has just been published by the author and covers a period of roughly three hundred years, mainly from the year 1611, when King James I granted a charter creating a borough corporation, to the year 1900, when the urban district council was established. It is based upon various papers which have been read by him at meetings of the Breifny Antiquarian Society, and this is the first full account of many interesting phases of the story of the town.

A copy of this book may be obtained from the author at 60 Main Street, Cavan, Ireland, for 2s. 6d. (postage 2½d.).

The other local history is called "The Cradle of a Great Corporation" and refers to some aspects of local government in Croydon from 1745 to 1899. It is compiled by Mr. A. L. Whealler and is published by Roffey & Clark, Ltd., High Street, Croydon at 3s. 6d. This book is based upon the parish registers, the minutes of the meetings, local deeds and a number of other authoritative sources. We find that the attitude of ratepayers in 1820 was no different from that of the ratepayers of to-day. This is really an interesting book, and Mr. Whealler is to be highly commended for his thought and industry in bringing together for, I believe, the first time, the accumulated history of what is now one of the largest county boroughs in the country.

## So This Is London

Mr. Paul Cohen-Portheim's volume, "The Spirit of London" (B. T. Batsford, Ltd., 15 North Audley Street, W.1.; 7s. 6d.) is a notable addition to the growing library on the subject of the Metropolis. It does not profess to be a "complete guide book"; nevertheless it is an admirable guide, written by one who was at once a good Londoner and a good European. The book was completed only a few months before the author's untimely death, and is one of the best critical studies of London that we have seen. It is illustrated by over 140 photographs from many sources which strikingly reveal the spirit of London.

Another new volume on London is E. Stewart Fay's "Why Piccadilly?" (Methuen & Co., Ltd., 7s. 6d.). So many of the names of London thoroughfares are quaint and apparently meaningless that few people can have encountered them without wondering how they originated. In this volume Mr. Fay reveals the interesting fact which is behind practically every important street name, and the stories certainly make delightful reading. The author is rather critical of our methods of deciding street names. We plan our houses and our streets, he says. Then why should we not plan our street names by giving them a significance which is not historical but is functional. In other words, do we prefer Fifty-First Street West instead of Rochester Row? Still, there is something to be said for the old folk-names of London.





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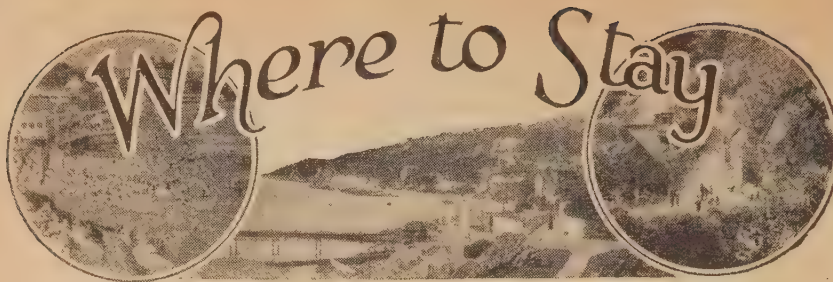
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(Continued on page 182)

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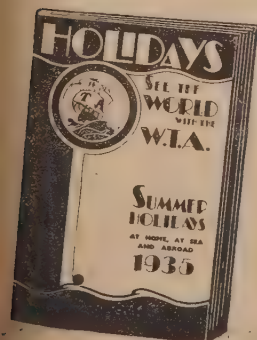
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## WHERE TO STAY

(Continued from page 180)

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# NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

## Stepney Branch Dinner

A dinner—the first function of its kind under the auspices of the Stepney Branch of the Association—was held at Wickham's Restaurant, Mile End Road. Mr. C. Boden, Public Cleansing Officer of the Borough, was in the chair. Among those present, in addition to several of the chief officials of the Borough Council, were Mr. L. Hill, general Secretary of N.A.L.G.O., and Mr. T. M. Kershaw, divisional secretary, Metropolitan Area. Mr. Hill, in his address, remarked that during the past year there had been a considerable amount of effort made by local authorities throughout Great Britain, in bringing home the position of local government more forcibly to the minds of the public. He liked to call "the consumers of local government." The part which N.A.L.G.O. played in that was, of course, tremendous. He believed that the work of the officers in local government would be much more pleasant and happy once they had got the people dependent upon them to realise that they were getting value for their money.

There was a time when perhaps the ordinary everyday qualifications issued by various professional and educational systems were sufficient for the work of local government administration, but the fact had emerged that something beyond professional qualifications was required to make a first-class local government officer. They had to get behind them some knowledge of the social conditions and their relationship to the welfare of that particular community. With this in view they had endeavoured to bring within the reach of their members some means of study, such as through summer schools, study groups and classes.

Mr. McCarty expressed appreciation of Mr. Hill's address, and Mr. Kershaw also spoke. A vote of thanks to the speakers was proposed by Mr. Burton and seconded by Mr. Moore.

## Concert

The Mayor of Luton, Councillor J. T. Harrison, presided at a concert given under the auspices of the Luton and District Branch at Church Street Adult School Conference Hall, Luton. The first part of the programme was provided entirely by Luton local government officers. The proceeds are to be given to the B. and O. Fund. The Mayor, who was admitted a life member of the Fund, said that Fund was doing a great work. The Town Clerk, Mr. W. H. Robinson, remarked that in Luton there were 15 members of the Fund, and six life members. Since 1912, £74,000 had been distributed by the Fund.

## Jubilee Memorial

Arising from the decision to add a maternity wing to the local hospital as a Jubilee Memorial, the Newark Branch responded to the Mayor's appeal by organising a carnival dance, which was held in the Technical College on Jubilee Day and proved highly successful. Those present included the Mayor and the Mayoress, councillors and chief officials. Mr. J. Gardner, Borough Treasurer, officiated as M.C. The Organising Secretaries, Messrs. W. A. Richardson and J. J. March, report that a handsome sum has been raised for the Appeal Fund.

## Further Powers Wanted

The Mayor (Mr. J. W. Watson) presided at dinner in South Shields, held to celebrate the Centenary of Local Government. The principal speaker was Mr. A. V. Alexander, formerly First Lord of the Admiralty. There were also present: Mr. Harcourt Johnstone, M.P. for the Borough; Mr. L. Hill, General Secretary of the N.A.L.G.O.; the Town Clerk (Mr. Harold Ayrey); the Borough Treasurer (Mr. R. H. Coulthard); the Borough Coroner (Mr. W. M. Patterson), and members of the Town Council.

Proposing the toast of "the Local Govern-

ment Service," Mr. Alexander stated that we had in the Local Government Service the same high spirit and the same public spirit as there was in the Civil Service. He traced the development of the work of Local Authorities during the last 100 years, and maintained that the principle of liberty as expressed in the public service of this country was what was really holding democracy together, and that it might yet result in the recovery of democratic rights in the rest of Europe. The movement, owing to the industrial depression of large groups of ratepayers leaving some areas almost derelict, and causing great demands on the rates in other areas, would need in the future great thought and statesmanship. He was convinced that far greater powers would have to be given to the Local Authorities by a wider devolution than there was at present, and he suggested that Local Authorities should be given powers to relieve them of special legal parliamentary expenses in promoting legislation, by a general enabling Act.

Mr. L. Hill, in reply, stated that out of the experiment of Local Government in the last 100 years, two things had emerged—a very high standard of administrative efficiency on the part of the personnel of Local Authorities, and a high quality of voluntary service given by the men and women who sat on local bodies.

## Comedy at West Hartlepool

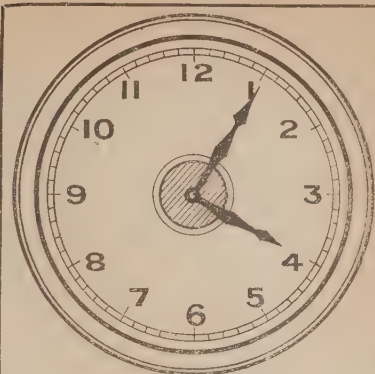
The West Hartlepool Branch's newly formed Dramatic Society gave their first production on April 26 in the presence of a large audience. The piece selected was "Hay Fever," a comedy in three acts by Noel Coward. The following took part: Marjorie Baker, Richard de Z. Hall, Grace Macfarlane, Betty Usher, Charles W. Smith, Thomas E. Page, Nancy Groves, Arthur Usher, Dorothy Handley. The producer was Mr. R. de Z. Hall, Solicitor in the Town Clerk's Office, and the Business Manager, Mr. A. Faul. The scenery was decorated by the West Hartlepool School of Art. It is understood that the profits on the performance will be devoted to the B. and O. Fund.

## Linarkshire

The Finance Committee of the County Council have now unanimously approved a new Grading Scheme. On the whole, it is not a bad Scheme, although it might, in the view of the Branch, be improved and simplified. It will certainly be a great improvement on the chaotic conditions which have prevailed in Lanarkshire for some time past. At the last meeting of the Branch Executive Mr. Mortimer reported on the unofficial representations he had made. The Branch Executive have decided, however, not to raise objections in the meantime but to observe the actual operations of the Scheme before making any official representations to the Council.

## SCOTTISH WHITLEY COUNCIL

Glasgow Corporation has now decided in favour of Whitleyism, and Mr. Mortimer has received a letter from the Town Clerk that the Corporation will co-operate in the formation and functioning of Councils for all branches of Local Authority work. Our members may recollect that we had intended holding a Conference of representatives of Local Authorities with a view to the formation of a National or Provincial Council for the Technical, Clerical and Administrative staffs, but that, on the advice of the Ministry of Labour who were to have convened the Conference, we decided to postpone the meeting until Glasgow came to a decision. The Ministry of Labour have now the question of fixing a date before them, but up till the time of writing no definite arrangement has been made. We trust, however, that the Conference will take place at an early date.



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- Board of Trade (Inspectors of Weights and Measures and Gas Meters).
- Chartered Institute of Secretaries, Incorporated Secretaries' Association, and Corporation of Certified Secretaries.
- Sanitary Inspectors Joint Examination Board (both for England and Wales and for Scotland).
- Royal Sanitary Institute (Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods, Food Hygiene (A.R.San.I.), and Sanitary Science).
- Institution of Municipal and County Engineers (Testamur).
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# HOME GARDENING

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens,"  
"The Wright Encyclopædia of Gardening," etc.

**Y**ES, the "Midsummer Poms" are speeding on, but there are still little additions to be made to the provision which every good gardener makes for that delectable time. Are all the Zonal Geraniums in? And all the Begonias? All the Dahlias, too? These are the things that often get left till last, on the assumption that most other bedding plants are harder, as indeed they are. I told of a lovely rose-pink bedding Zonal some time ago, the proper name of which I had been unable to satisfy myself about. I can go a little farther now, and without committing myself to one of two names as the real Simon Pure I think I can safely say that either will bring the true thing: they are Chelsea Gem and Mrs. Parker. A friend in the trade who knows the variety well is definite that the pair are synonymous. That is enough for me, at present at all events, and I hope it will encourage my readers to get what I consider to be one of the very best silver-leaf Zonals on the market.

## Dahlias

With thoughts of Dahlias come thoughts of staking, in connection with which I have recently been reading the advice of a fellow writer who advocates three to four stakes each for all the bigger things, including Dahlias, Chrysanthemums and the larger types of Michaelmas Daisy. Well, he is of course perfectly right, in theory at least, and I will not dissuade any reader from following the advice who is at once in the happy position of having abundance of time and abundance of suitable materials. But I have been a terribly busy person in my time and have learned that with judgment one can save both time and material with the one-stake system: so much so indeed that now in the autumn of life and with more leisure I still rely upon it. But the one stake should be long enough to reach the height which it is intended shall be the ultimate altitude of the plant, and it should quite early on have a loop (tie) near the ground, which can presently be drawn up a foot or more, and later on can be supplemented with one higher up, or even with two loops more. One can really do quite a lot and save much time and material by judicious drawing up of loops, realising, however, that while it is feasible with Chrysanthemums and Michaelmas Daisies it is not so with Dahlias, owing to the stiffer and more perpendicular habit of their lateral shoots.

The materials for the loops might be raffia, but for large plants tarred twine will be better, and it is gratifying to see the variety of tying materials now available. One can obtain at least two good kinds of tarred twine and two of green materials, one in each case being softer, and correspondingly cheaper, than the other. Personally, I like to have two balls of the tarred stuff and two rolls of the green on the toolshed shelf at the same time, and I think it pays, too, because one can effect economies by using the right kind for each purpose.

One may assume that all annuals are now in their places and that some thinning at least has been done. If more remains it may be worth while to wait for a heavy shower; indeed, it is essential if there is crowding in dry soil. Not only does moisture facilitate the removal of superfluous plants, but it also enables one to press back into their places permanent seedlings which have been loosened by the removal of condemned neighbours. If drought persists when thinning has become urgent I would not hesitate to break off surplus seedlings in preference to pulling them out at the cost of dislodging the rest.

The wet April gave us a good, if rather late, bloom with the various members of the Primrose genus, including Auriculas, Polyanthus, and Primroses. They were just about at their best in Jubilee week, when they were a joy to

see. I hope all my readers have a good strain, also that they will give it a fair chance of doing justice to itself in the future by lifting, dividing, and replanting in a cool, partially shaded and well-manured spot during showery weather in June. While agreeing that if old "stock" plants have been allowed to get into very dense masses a supply of young seedlings is preferable, I will not say that nothing can be done with the ancient clumps, for I know from experience that if they are so thoroughly pulled to pieces that every bit has a distinct, even though very small, "crown" and likewise a twig or two of root that it can call its own, very gratifying results may ensue the following spring.

One must think of Rose enemies this month, looking over the plants at regular short intervals to make sure that neither mildew, black spot, nor maggot has established itself. Whatever enemy has given trouble in the past, it should be remembered that adequate root moisture is a prime principle. I agree that it is not a safeguard against every evil, and that hand-picking for maggot, with an occasional spraying of insecticide and fungicide, is helpful. But I do know that if moisture can be maintained round the roots by watering or mulching, or still better by a combination of both, the plants are fortified and will give results worth having.

Delphinium lovers are many in these days, and will now be watching their clumps with eager expectancy. Growers of little experience are likely to be satisfied if the clumps are thick, be the shoots which compose them few or many, but older growers will be the better pleased if they have recalled that six strong shoots are likely to give better satisfaction than twelve thin ones and have already thinned. Well, it is not yet too late to thin dense masses, especially if a soaking of liquid manure can be supplied afterwards. The remarks on staking above may be read in connection with these noble plants.

## Rock Plants

One should find time fairly early this month to go over the rock plants with shears, cropping off the fading stems of such early-blooming things as Saxifrages and clipping closely the clumps of Aubrietia which have been so lovely. When a mass of Aubrietia three or four feet across is reduced to a few stumps of as many inches long a bare expanse of soil is left. After rain prick this well up with a suitable tool and spread on a dressing of fresh soil, when the plant concerned will in its own good time make a bigger and more beautiful mass than ever. Other spring-flowering rock plants benefit similarly by such treatment. Lovers of Alpines who have learned how to deal with the various kinds know that the present is quite a good time to put in cuttings, sandy soil being used and the pans or boxes put under glass and shaded from hot sun.

Sweet Pea lovers will soon be enjoying their first flowers outdoors. They must, however, beware of feasting on the sight of them too long. Better far be satisfied with one glimpse and then remove the flowers while they are still young, resting assured that the lady of the house will appreciate them and that the plants will be all the better for not having to ripen them off. Are you growing on the cordon system? Then suppress laterals on the main shoots as fast as they appear. Most growers make an effort to provide a mulch for the roots early this month, if the material is only grass mowings, but preferring manure, even if long and strawy. Syringing the plants on the evenings of hot days is another popular item with those who specialise in these beautiful annuals.

Owners of lawns generally have long memories and they will not have forgotten that as early as the first week in June of 1934 the turf was yellowing. Worse still, the water authorities were on the warpath, dictating that the hose

must not be used for such trivial purposes preserving the verdancy of grass. Hear, forbid that this year should give us such a series of affairs. I suggest having a bag of lawn fertiliser in the garden shed and following first good shower with a sprinkling of the substance, as it will help the turf to stand up to possible drought later in the month or in July. One good thing about grass is that it responds very quickly to stimulants, but they should be accompanied by moisture, itself the best stimulant of all.

It is good to see the increasing interest in shrubs, both deciduous and evergreen. The increase would develop at enhanced speed if people would only interest themselves in pruning, because correct methods tend to much improved results. Now thousands of people who have no particular knowledge of shrub pruning have a very good idea of pruning dwarf Roses, and it may interest them to know that most of the summer-flowering shrubs suited by identical treatment; while another large group is suited by removing the young wood after flowering and encouraging fresh wood from the base for blooming the following year, which is Rambler-Rose pruning, except that it is done in early instead of late summer. Thus may one identify the pruning of many shrubs with two groups of Roses.

Do not overlook the sowing of Wallflower, Canterbury Bells, Sweet Williams, Brompton Stocks and other biennials for next year's flowering.

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I admire the choice of the extracts, and I admire also the excellent arrangement of the anthology.—C. K. W.

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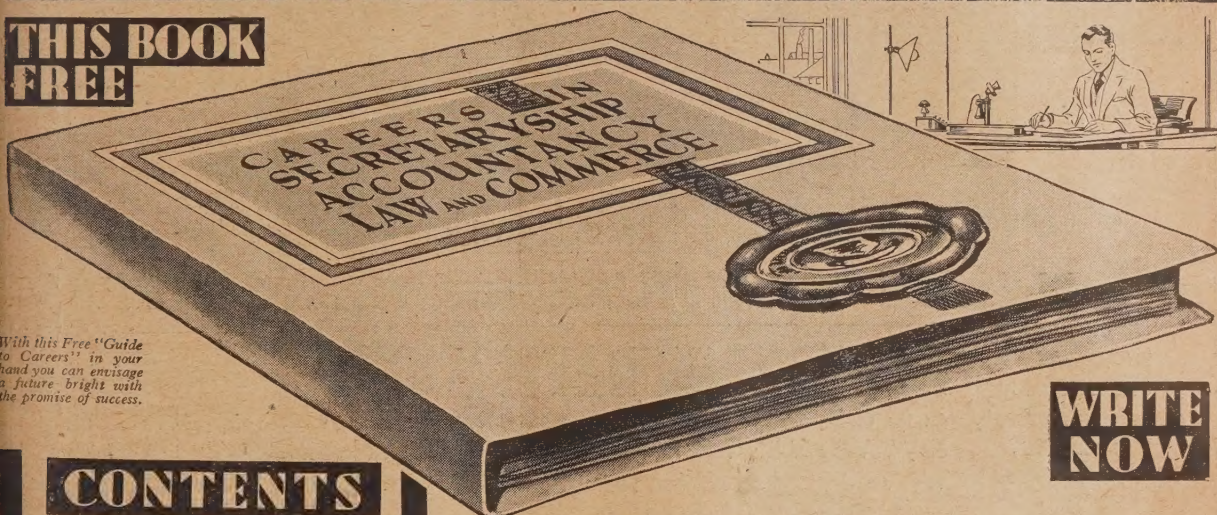
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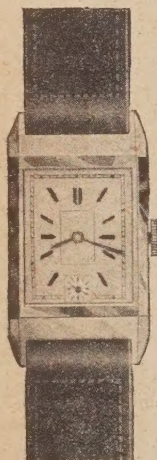
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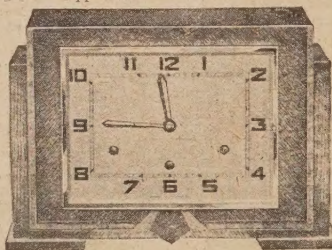
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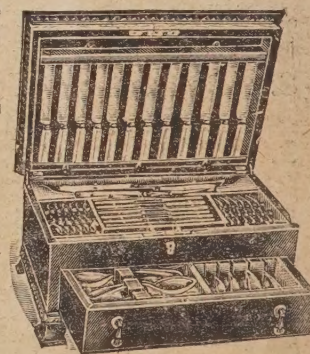
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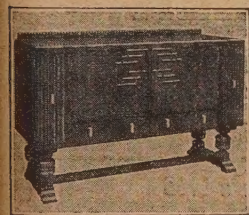
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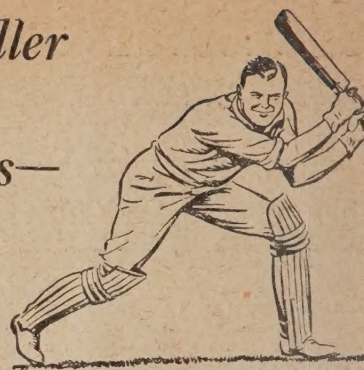
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